

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

The final reel
David Hewson looks at
the health of the British
film industry

Take a bow
Bernard Levin pays
tribute to master
musician Reginald
Goodall

Flying start
Ray Kennedy previews
the South African Grand
Prix at Kyalami



Ice age
What comes after Torvill
and Dean? Skating is
back in fashion

Hijacking
ends in
shoot-out

Turkish security forces
stormed a hijacked Saudi
Arabian airliner at Istanbul's
Yusufli airport and released
passengers held hostage. First
reports said a number of the
hijackers, who had forced the
aircraft to divert from Damas-
cus, had been captured in a
shoot-out.

ILEA elections

Direct elections are to be held
for the new Inner London
Education Authority. Back page

Jones decision

No action will be taken against
Dr Robert Jones, whose wife
was found murdered, the
Director of Public Prosecutions
said. Page 3

Teachers' strike

A half-day strike on Wednesday
has been called by the National
Association of Schoolmasters
(Union of Women Teachers
after a breakdown of pay talks. Page 2

Lorraine clash

Worker fought worker in France
as union officials intervened in
Lorraine to stop violence by
rampaging steelmen. Page 6

Trudeau divorce

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian
Prime Minister, and his
wife Margaret were formally
divorced after six years of
separation.

Reagan ploy

President Reagan's offer to ban
chemical weapons worldwide in
an attempt, in part, to gain an
advantage in the arms debate,
one of the main US election
issues. Page 5

Home repairs

A £250m repairs scheme is
planned to aid people who
bought council homes later
found to be defective. Page 3

Heart-lung first

A south London woman is the
first patient to receive a heart-
lung transplant at Papworth
Hospital, Cambridgeshire. Page 3

Faldo's score

Nick Faldo, the British golfer, is
among the early leaders in the
Greater Greensboro Open after
a first round score of 71. Page 23

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Scargill's strategy
suffers blow in
steel and pit votes

● Union delegates representing more than
30,000 Nottinghamshire miners rejected by
nearly three to one the area executives call
for pickets not to cross picket lines.

● Leaders of the Steelworkers' Union voted
not to join the blockade of coal supplies
agreed by transport, shipping and rail
union leaders.

● An emergency Commons debate on
police action during the miners' dispute will
almost certainly be held next Tuesday.

● Despite growing coal board optimism
that a solution to the pit strike might be in
sight two fewer mines were in production
yesterday. Leading article, page 13

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The miners' strike began to
lose its cutting edge yesterday
when the steel workers voted to
abandon their industrial allies
and Nottinghamshire pickets
decided to continue working
normally.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman
of the National Coal Board,
urged in a widely syndicated
newspaper feature that workers
in other industries should
respect the "democratically
taken decision of those miners
who have voted to continue
working".

His argument was swiftly
echoed in a vote by the national
executive of the Iron and Steel
Trades Confederation to stand
aloof from the blockade of coal
supplies agreed last week by
leaders of the transport, ship-
ping and rail unions. The steel
men fear further closures in
their industry if coking coal
supplies are cut off.

In the Nottinghamshire coal-
field, delegates of the National
Union of Mineworkers rejected
by nearly three to one an area
executive recommendation not
to cross picket lines, which
would have drawn 34,000 men
at 25 pits into the "rolling
strike", now nearing the end of
its fourth week.

Coal board managers pri-
vately expressed guarded opti-
mism last night that the bitter

mining dispute was finally going
their way. Attention is fixed on
next week's critical meeting of
the miner's union executive in
Sheffield, at which union
moderates will press for a
national ballot of the men.

The board said in a special
edition of its *Coal News* journal
circulated to 180,000 miners
that at least 13 of the 24
members of the union executive
are for a secret pithead poll.
"That is the only way to end the
present bitterness between areas
of the union and conflict
between groups of the union's
members."

But despite the board's
growing optimism that a solu-
tion to the dispute might be at
hand, the number of pits
working normally fell yesterday
and there were more arrests on
the picket lines.

Only 40 mines out of 176
were producing coal as usual on
the night shift, a reduction of
two on the previous day. There
were arrests at a number of
sides, including 39 in clashes
between pickets and police at
Port Talbot steelworks in South
Wales.

A meeting of unions involved
in the projected blockade of
coal movements broke up
yesterday without a formal
statement, and transport
workers' leaders are to hold

further talks in an effort to
make their sympathetic indus-
trial action stick.

In Nottinghamshire, how-
ever, train drivers are expected
to defy instructions from the
rail unions, the National Union
of Railways and the Associated
Society of Locomotive Engi-
neers and Firemen, to "black"
coal movements after the 180-
2 vote by miners' union area
delegates not to cross their own
picket lines. Their lead may be
taken up in other areas such as
Lancashire, where the rail union
boycott has been implemented.

The Nottinghamshire confer-
ence vote was not unexpected,
but that decision and the steel
confederation's refusal to take
action in support of the striking
miners is expected to raise
moderates hopes of an early
ballot that could lead to a "no"
vote on industrial action.

The coordinating committee
of transport unions set up last
week to halt the movement of
coal into and around the
country could be the next
victim of diminished enthusi-
asm for the miners' cause.

The committee met for an
hour yesterday at the offices of
the National Union of Seamen
in London, but union leaders
declined to give details of its
deliberations.

Commons set for pit debate

By Julian Hailand, Political Correspondent

The emergency Commons
debate on the policing of
coalfields during the miners'
dispute, for which Labour MPs
have been pressing since last
week, will almost certainly take
place on Tuesday.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of
the Opposition, said yesterday
that concern about infringements
of civil liberties (by the police)
convinced him, and if there
was "no significant improve-
ment", Mr Gerald Kaufman,
Labour's senior home affairs
spokesman, would apply on
Monday for a three-hour debate
the following day.

It would then be for the
Speaker, Mr Bernard Weather-
ill, to decide whether the
matter was "proper to be
discussed". Mr Weatherill has

already indicated his willingness
to allow a debate when he
thinks the time is ripe.

Mr Kinnock's words pre-
sented a renewed outbreak of
indignation by Labour mem-
bers representing mining areas,
who had for three days pressed
Mr Weatherill in vain to allow a
debate. Their impatience had
been fuelled by Mr Kinnock's
earlier refusal to use Opposition
time to initiate a debate, for fear
that any attack might recoil on
Labour.

There is still some nervous-
ness on that score, but by
yesterday it was clear to the
Labour leadership that pressure
for a debate could not prudently
be resisted any longer.

The emergency procedure

gives Mr Kaufman an outside
chance of concentrating atten-
tion on the police, but with the
mineworkers' national executive
due to meet 48 hours later,
Conservative backbenchers will
try to bring in the "wider
question of the right to work".

The Labour Party's com-
plaints are likely to be full-
blooded. Mr Kaufman and his
colleagues now have what they
describe as a substantial dossier
of complaints about police
behaviour.

Mr Kinnock's view is that the
intensity of police activity is
unprecedented and worrying,
and that it is wrong for someone
seeking to join a peaceful picket
line to be treated as if he is
breaching the peace.

BBC faces
more TV
disruption

By David Hewson

The television union which
blackened out BBC 1 yesterday
meets today to plan its next
move amid signs that the
dispute is worsening.

Union officials deplored a
statement by Mr Bill Cotton,
managing director of BBC
Television, who decided to
close the station in the face of
the 24-hour strike, to which he
ruled out arbitration over the
heart of the dispute.

He said that the issue which
led to 595 striking scenery
workers being dismissed could
not be negotiated or sent to
arbitration because it concerned
"work practices which are no
longer appropriate or generally
acceptable anywhere".

Unless there is a change of
heart on either side, it now
seems certain that today's
meeting of officials of the
Entertainments Trades
Alliance will examine ways of
escalating the action.

MI5 officer to face
10 secrets charges

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Ten espionage charges based
on the Official Secrets Act will
be put to Mr Michael Bettaney,
the MI5 officer arrested last
year, when his trial begins at the
Central Criminal Court next
week.

Mr Bettaney, aged 34, of
Coulson, Surrey, was arrested
last September and committed
for trial in December on six
charges. Since then, the indict-
ment has been revised for a trial
which will be held almost
entirely in camera.

As a result of the changes Mr
Bettaney faces six charges under
Section One of the 1911 Act.
These allege that he passed
information to a Soviet official
on April 3 and June 12 last year;
that he recorded information
useful to an enemy on Sep-
tember 7 and 12 and between
September 6 and 16; and that he
collected information useful to

an enemy between December
21, 1982 and September 16 last
year.

Mr Bettaney, a middle-rank-
ing officer faces four charges
relating to acts preparatory to
communicating information.
Two of these allege that on
April 3 and June 12 last year he
delivered letters to a Soviet
official setting out precise
arrangements for communicat-
ing classified information by the
use of "dead letter boxes".

He is also alleged to have
delivered a letter to a Soviet
official on July 10 last year
offering his services in supply-
ing classified information and to
have collected biographical
details of Soviet officials in
Vienna between April 3 and
September 16 preparatory to
communicating information.

Continued on back page, col 1

Popping across the Atlantic for £99

By Michael Horsnell

The new Virgin Atlantic Airline,
owned by the millionaire
entrepreneur Mr Richard
Branson, yesterday won a
licence to fly passengers from
Gatwick to New York for a
single fare of £99.

Amid indications that the
scheme would start the biggest
Atlantic price war in aviation
history, the eccentric head of
Virgin Records marched into a
London press conference in
leather flying jacket, helmet
and goggles like a prototype
Biggles to the tune *Come Fly
With Me*, to announce that the
inaugural flight will be in June
14.

The pop art motif which will
decorate the tail plane of the
single aircraft airline shows a
pilot, decorated with a cassette
player hanging on for dear life
to a mid-air cradle, painting the
Virgin sign.

Passengers opting for Virgin
Atlantic, the latest off-shoot of
Mr Branson's £150m a year
turnover empire which boasts



Mr Branson: "come fly with me"

Boy George among its musical
stars, will be treated to new
dimensions in in-flight enter-
tainment.

The airline has been granted
a licence by the Civil Aviation
Authority, in spite of an objec-
tion from British Caledonian,
and though it still has to obtain
an air operators certificate from
the CAA approving its techni-
cal and management struc-
ture, and American approval,
these are regarded as formalities.

The introductory £99 fare
will be available until June 30.
From July 1 to September 15
the fare will be £119 with £10
weekend surcharges and there-
after £110 with no weekend
surcharges. The Boeing 747-
100 series aircraft, the interior
of which is being refurbished,
will fly from Gatwick to
Newark, New Jersey.

The 465-test aircraft, a
transport of delight with an
advanced video system and a
varied selection of popular
music, is to be purchased by a
British bank and leased to
Virgin Atlantic, which is
looking for a 70 per cent seat
take-up rate to break even.

The CAA described the new
airline's application as "a risky
venture" in a difficult market,
but Mr Branson aged 33, who
has volunteered unlimited
guarantees, said yesterday that
no one succeeds in walking
life's tortuous path without
taking risks.

Virgin Atlantic, which will
take the same route flown by



Damp start: Prince Andrew steps ashore on St Helena, accompanied by Mr John Massingham, the island's Governor.

Big splash
to welcome
the Prince

By Alan Hamilton

Mr John Massingham,
Governor of the remote Crown
Colony of St Helena, resplend-
ent in white dress uniforms
and pith helmet, yesterday
welcomed Prince Andrew
ashore for the island's 150th
anniversary celebrations by
falling in the water up to his
knees.

Mr Massingham missed his
footing as he stepped ashore
from a launch bearing himself
and the royal visitor through
the churning South Atlantic
swell. Prince Andrew, who
followed him, took the pre-
caution of clinging to a rope as
he set foot on the island which
has no proper harbour.

The incident set a suitably
relaxed tone for the first royal
visit to one of Britain's most
remote possessions since the
Duke of Edinburgh landed
fleetingly in 1957. Most of the
island's 5,100 population
packed the tiny capital of
Jamestown to welcome Prince
Andrew, undertaking his first
official overseas visit, with a
song: "Feel free, have fun, jola
in with everyone".

It was the second occasion
that the Governor has fallen
into the water. On the first
occasion at Ascension Island
while climbing on board a
vessel to St Helena, he was
drenched up to the knees
causing one naval officer to
quip: "The blighter thinks he
can walk on water".

The Prince arrived on board
the survey vessel HMS Herald
after a three-day voyage from
Ascension Island. Among local
dignitaries introduced to him
were Mr Gilbert Martineau,
the French consul who runs Lon-
wood House where Napoleon
lived in exile, and Mr Charles
Stewart Wade, aged 77, who
skippered the launch which
brought King George VI ashore
in 1947.

Observers believe that the
traditional peace of the tiny
island has been disturbed by
the large numbers of St
Helenean men who now work in
Ascension Island, which as-
sumed vital importance as the
staging post for the Falklands
airbridge.

The Foreign Office refused
to comment yesterday on
reports that Mr Massingham is
expected to leave the island in
June, well before his term of
office, is up, to take up a new
diplomatic post in West Africa.

Solitary prisoner, page 8

Whitehall hit over
Grenada invasion

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government was
strongly criticised yesterday for
adopting a lethargic approach in
the days preceding the invasion
of Grenada last October by the
United States and Caribbean
countries.

The Commons Foreign Aff-
airs Committee also concluded,
after a detailed investigation
into the Grenada crisis, that
President Reagan had delibera-
tely kept Britain in the dark
about his intentions to take
military action.

Acknowledging that Britain
had voiced doubts to the
Americans on October 21 about
any invasion, the all-party
committee concluded that those
wishing to pursue military
action may well have predicted
Britain's likely reaction and
adjusted the information given
to the British Government
accordingly. "We have reason to
believe that was the case."

The Conservative-dominated
committee, however, criticized
the Government for failing to
take any initiative during the
weekend of October 22 to
ascertain the full intentions of
Caribbean leaders or to seek to
dissuade them, even though it
had been told that some
countries intended to launch an
invasion in cooperation with
friendly states. The Govern-
ment "reacted passively" to
events unfolding in the Carib-
bean.

The Government will have to
make a full reply

Although the committee in
its report did not pass judgment
on the invasion, its minutes dis-
closed that it had split on party
lines over an attempt by Labour
members to condemn the
intervention.

An amendment moved by
Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour
MP for Falkirk, deploring the
invasion and supporting Brit-
ain's non-participation, was
lost only on the casting vote of
the committee chairman, Sir
Anthony Kershaw.

Mr Dennis Healey, Labour's
spokesman on foreign affairs,
said last night: "They can now
be no question but the Foreign
Secretary was guilty of a gross
dereliction of duty in failing
personally to take control of a
crisis which he should have
known was about to burst and
that the lack of candour shown
by the American President
amounted to deceit of a
favourite ally."

Mr Peter Thomas, Conserva-
tive MP for Hendon South, who
led the committee delegation to
the Caribbean, told a Westmin-
ster press conference that the
Americans refused to consult
because they realized Britain
was not in a position to take
part in what was a quick
military adventure. Britain
might also have argued against
it.

Parliament, page 4
Howe in dark, page 8
Leading article, page 13

Callaghan
not told
of guns
purchase

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister told an
astonished Mr James Callaghan
yesterday that the decision to
allow the Metropolitan Police to
buy sub-machine guns had first
been taken by his own adminis-
tration in 1976.

But after a two-hour investi-
gation, Mr Callaghan told
journalists that Sir Robert
Armstrong, Secretary to the
Cabinet, had told him that the
decision had not been referred to
a Cabinet committee, the
Cabinet or the Prime Minister
of the day.

Mr Roy Jenkins, who was
Home Secretary in August, 1976,
when the decision was taken,
issued a statement later yester-
day saying that he had, indeed,
authorised purchase of "a
limited number of such weap-
ons to be held against the need
for use in terrorist situations".

He said the decision had been
taken in the light of the sieges at
Balcombe Street and Spaghetti
House, and their use had not
been authorized for protection
duties.

Mr Callaghan said he had
asked for Cabinet papers on the
decision, but Sir Robert had
told him that there were no
such papers. "The decision had
been taken by a Home Office
Minister, he said, and one R.
Armstrong. That's what he said
to me."

Sir Robert was a Deputy
Under-Secretary at the Home
Office in August 1976.

Mr Callaghan, who had
intervened in Prime Minister's
Question Time in the Com-
mons, had asked Mrs Thatcher
whether it would not be better
to use Servicemen, rather than
police with sub-machine guns,
to meet a short-term terrorist
threat. He feared the risk to the
traditional character and image
of the police service.

But the former Prime Minis-
ter, himself a former Home
Secretary and, before that,
Commons spokesman for the
Police Federation, was clearly
taken aback by Mrs Thatcher's
reply.

She told him: "It is within
public knowledge that as long
as 1976 the then Labour
administration approved the
acquisition by the Metropolitan
Police of a small number of
conventional sub-machine
guns, for possible use in a
terrorist emergency, which I am
sure the then Home Secretary
had very much in mind."

Mr Callaghan told the House
that he would want to see the
relevant papers so that he could
see whether the mistake had
been his or that of Mr Jenkins.
He then said that whatever the
previous circumstances, serious
consideration should be given
to the present situation.

Mr Callaghan immediately left
the chamber and saw a "fust-
ered" Mr Robin Butler, principal
private secretary to the
Prime Minister, to ask for the
papers. That was at 3.40.

Continued on back page, col 2

Thatcher
cannot meet
Mitterrand

By Rodney Cowton

An extraordinary situation
developed yesterday with Mrs
Thatcher indicating that her
commitments prevented her
from seeing President Mitter-
rand of France when he visits
Britain on Monday.

M Mitterrand, as president of
the European Community, has
a long-standing commitment to
come to Britain for the formal
inauguration by the Queen of
the joint European jet project at
Culham in Oxfordshire.

At a press conference on
Wednesday he said that he
hoped to use his visit to try to
resolve Britain's budget dispute
with the other members of the
Community. The £175m jet
project is the biggest element in
a programme to prove the
feasibility of using nuclear
fusion to provide a long-term
source of energy.

However, a spokesman for
Mrs Thatcher said that her
diary for Monday was already
full and she would not be able
to see the President. The
Government will be represented at
the Culham ceremony by Mr
Peter Walker, Secretary of State
for Energy.

It is remarkable that Presi-
dent Mitterrand should have
publicly suggested broadening
the purpose of his visit appar-
ently without arrangements
having been made privately
first.

It is possible that the
inflexibility in Mrs Thatcher's
diary arises from a preference
for seeing the budget problem
pursued at the level of foreign
ministers at this stage.

As it happens, the commu-
nity's foreign ministers,
including Sir Geoffrey Howe,
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs,
will be meeting in Luxembourg
on Monday and Tuesday in a
further effort to reach a
re-
sult.

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Ruling later on miners' investment

Judgement was reserved in the High Court in London yesterday in the dispute between the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board trustees over how best to use investment assets of the £3,000m miners' pensions scheme.

The dispute arose after the union trustees objected to further direct investments overseas or in energy interests competing with coal.

The case for the union nominees had been argued in person by the union president, Mr Arthur Scargill, after his side dispensed with his barrister. The nine-day hearing ended as it had begun, with Mr Samuel Stammer, QC, for the coal board trustees, shaking hands with Mr Scargill.

'Trance' wife acquitted

Mrs Adelaide Dalglish, aged 60, was cleared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of murdering her husband George, aged 63, with a carving knife. During a reconstruction she "went into a trance" and told the police that she remembered a struggle with her husband, a heavy drinker who had been violent to her for nearly 40 years.

Mrs Dalglish, from Sidcup, Kent, an executive officer with the Department of the Environment, was also acquitted of manslaughter.

Threat to 2,000 meat workers

About 2,000 workers in all 10 of Northern Ireland's large meat-processing plants have received redundancy notices as fears grow that the EEC agriculture ministers' decisions last week will threaten the £300m-a-year beef industry.

Representatives of the meat industry - the biggest single producer in Northern Ireland's economy - met senior officials of the Provincial Department of Agriculture yesterday to discuss the problem.

TV project on the environment

Central Television yesterday joined the United Nations Environment Programme to co-sponsor a non-profit making trust to help to make television programmes about environmental issues.

The first documentary will be the problems of encroaching deserts, shot in Ethiopia and Australia. The trust's council includes David Attenborough and Thor Heyerdahl.

Former solicitor jailed for theft

Geoffrey Black, a former partner in the Liverpool solicitors' firm, Black Davidson, was jailed for 15 months by Liverpool Crown Court yesterday for stealing £35,000 from clients' accounts.

Black, aged 39, of Woolton, Liverpool, who has been struck off as a solicitor, admitted five specimen theft charges. The court was told that Black and his father had repaid £50,000 to cover the deficiencies.

TB outbreak traced to adult

Nine children are being treated for tuberculosis after an outbreak of the disease at a playgroup in north Devon. Dr Michael George, of the North Devon District Hospital, said yesterday the outbreak had been traced to an adult.

Most of the children who have been diagnosed as suffering from pulmonary TB went to the playgroup at Holworthy, near Bude, but some are friends or relatives.

Teachers' union to strike as pay arbitration is refused

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers in England and Wales belonging to the second largest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, will hold a half-day national strike next Wednesday, during the last week of term, after this week's breakdown of pay talks.

The association's executive, meeting in emergency session in Birmingham yesterday, agreed to instruct its 130,000 members to strike and withdraw "goodwill", midday supervision and after school meetings, in protest at the "obdurate" refusal of the management to go to arbitration.

It also voted for the national action committee to draw up plans for extended action during the summer term to be presented to the conference at Llundudno, north Wales, which begins on April 23.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy said that yesterday's meeting had been very heated and that the association had received several calls from members who wanted to interfere with examinations. "That is virtually unheard of."

That would mean teachers would not undertake marking and that strike action might even be selected for a day on which O levels, were being held. "A number of our members are suggesting that we go down that road, but we are not committed to that."

Several NAS-UWT branches jumped the gun yesterday and took unilateral action to withdraw goodwill. In Bedfordshire and the Isle of Wight, members refused to do lunchtime supervision or attend out-of-hours meetings.

Staff strike over cuts at Job centres

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Employees at more than 100 Jobcentres walked out yesterday in protest at proposed staff cuts and there were indications that union activists intend to call lighting strikes during the next few weeks.

The worst affected area was Scotland, where 56 Jobcentres were closed by walkouts coinciding with a visit by Mr Bryan Emmett, chief executive of the Manpower Services Commission's employment division, to explain the planned reorganization.

The commission will decide this month whether to accept the proposals recommending that the number of main Jobcentres be cut from 995 to about 350 and replaced by 350 small jobshops and up to 500 jobpoints, which are likely to be in new premises such as post offices, supermarkets, banks and private employment agencies.

Mr Emmett will address centre managers and regional officials in London today and will continue a regional tour during the next week or so. An official of the Society of Civil and Public Servants said last night: "We will follow him around wherever he goes."

About 1,000 of the 8,500 Jobcentre staff participated in yesterday's protests which were said to have been spontaneous.

Mr John Clarke, the union's negotiations officer for the employment service, said: "The protest actions are designed to display our anger. We are confident that the commission will throw out the proposals, but if they do not, the union will consider more serious forms of action."

At his week's meeting of the Burnham committee, which negotiates teachers' pay, the management side refused to increase its offer above 3 per cent, the Government's public sector pay ceiling and refused to go to arbitration.

It is understood that they were prepared to increase the offer to 4 per cent, but only if the teachers had been prepared to accept it. They would also have agreed to go to arbitration if the teachers had modified their claim to 7.5 per cent. The teachers were only prepared to reduce their 12.5 per cent claim to 10 per cent.

The union condemned yesterday the "callous attitude" of the management in refusing a peaceful solution. "They will shed crocodile tears at the damage done to the education system but teachers offered a massive concession in proposing arbitration. Teachers have moved a mile. Management have refused to budge an inch."

The largest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, which has 250,000 members, is waiting for its national conference on April 21, before deciding its action.

The National Association of Head Teachers is to decide at the weekend whether to instruct members to do nothing to interfere with the industrial action.

An inquiry was announced yesterday into whether degree courses were approved at polytechnics and further education colleges effectively. It will be chaired by Sir Norman Lindop, a former director of the Hatfield Polytechnic and chairman of the Data Protection Commission.

New camps planned at Greenham

By Pat Healy

The number of women at Greenham Common grew last night to more than 200 as the spite of evictions drew more sympathizers to the six peace camps still visible in protest at the presence of cruise missiles inside the base.

The growing numbers have encouraged the women to start planning the reestablishment of peace camps outside the base's remaining two gates. Like the other camps, they will be named after colours and will be known as Red and Turquoise.

A much depleted number of police officers guarded the roadworks area outside the main gates where the chief eviction took place on Wednesday. But between the temporary paling fence marking off the construction area and the perimeter fence marking off the construction area and the perimeter fence itself, peace women reestablished themselves in two camps either side of the slip road. They were evicted from there yesterday but returned later.

A third site bustled with women on the common across the road from the main gate. At each of the camps signs were displayed declaring: "Business as usual."

Newbury police officers circled the base throughout yesterday and, in what appeared to be a new policy, doused the women's camp fires.

A cruise missile launcher was flown into Greenham Common yesterday afternoon on board an American Galaxy transport plane which landed just after 3 pm. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament claimed. The Ministry of Defence refused to confirm or deny the claim.

Liner refit goes to Germany

By Tony Samstag

Another cruise liner, the P&O Sea Princess, is to undergo annual drydocking and refit at a foreign shipyard. The £750,000 contract is the third to go abroad in the past year, but the first of P&O's prestige liners to do so.

The 28,000-ton Sea Princess is to be overhauled at the end of the month by Hapag-Lloyd, of Bremerhaven, West Germany, which refitted the QE2 for Cunard last year at a cost of £2.7m.

Cunard's Countess was sent to Malta for its refit last May. P&O said yesterday that British and Continental yards had been invited to tender, but of five British yards thought capable of handling the job only Vosper Thornycroft, in Southampton, had tendered.

In the past, the Southampton company "had an advantage because Southampton is the home port of our European-based ships", P&O said. But this time they were not able to give us the most advantageous price, even allowing for the extra cost of taking the Sea Princess to Bremerhaven.



"Quoth the Raven, 'Nevermore.'" (Edgar Allan Poe)

County miner vote to pass pickets

From Craig Seton Mansfield

Union delegates representing more than 30,000 Nottinghamshire miners yesterday rejected by nearly three to one the area executive's call for its men not to cross picket lines amid scenes of bitterness and anger inside and outside the county's union headquarters in Mansfield.

More than 250 delegates representing the National Union of Mineworkers branches at 25 pits met for a five-hour session and voted 186-72 against the executive's recommendation on Tuesday that, effectively, their men should join the miner's strike for the first time. While they argued most miners in the county continued working normally and all pits were reported to be producing coal.

About 350 angry pickets from pits in Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland picketed the meeting through shouting and jeering at delegates as they entered for the meeting. An equal number of police surrounded them and four arrests were made in minor scuffles.

A counter demonstration was staged by Nottinghamshire miners warning the delegates not to betray those who voted three to one against strike action in a county ballot.

Grim-faced delegates leaving the meeting were greeted with shouts of "traitors" by the

pickets who had realized that the vote, as expected, had gone against their attempts to bring the traditionally moderate Nottinghamshire miners into the strike.

Delegates themselves refused to speak to the press, Mr Henry Richardson, the area general secretary, had wanted his men not to cross picket lines because "other workers in other unions were supporting the miners, refused to be interviewed."

A sad and depressed Mr Ray Chadburn, the area president, said the vote reflected the miners' own belief and meant that his members would continue working until a national ballot was held.

Mr Chadburn said it was clear most of the areas in the British coalfield were in favour of a national secret ballot and one, he thought, would be called for at next week's meeting of the miners' union-national executive.

"At the end of the day we have got to get together because we are doing irreparable damage for the future," he said.

"In 34 years I have never seen anything like it. We have brother against brother, father against son, man against wife. This is happening not just in Nottinghamshire but throughout a great deal of the British coalfield."

Coal, steel and railway unions head for clash

From Ronald Faux, Glasgow

A confrontation between steel workers at Ravenscraig in Scotland and striking miners who have cut the supply of coal to the British Steel Corporation plant there is threatened today when the triple alliance of steel, coal and rail unions meets in Edinburgh.

Strike leaders are hoping for a compromise with the steel workers that will avoid a damaging split in the alliance. But the steel workers are equally adamant that Ravenscraig is not to be sacrificed in the miners' strike.

The miners' union has ruled that one train load of coal a day from the quay at Humberston on the Clyde is enough to keep the plant in a safe condition without jeopardizing its future.

Steel workers put that minimum at two loads a day and show every sign of being prepared to cross the miners' picket lines to get the supplies through.

Mr Tom Brennan, convener of ship stewards at the plant, said yesterday that if steel supplies from Ravenscraig were cut because the plant was starved of coal then their customers would be forced to go elsewhere for their steel. If that happens Ravenscraig is dead, he said.

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, told the miners' president, Mr Scargill, that British workers were not prepared to see their industries sacrificed "just to massage a frustrated political ego" (the Press Association reports).

The real price of Mr Scargill's policies was other people's jobs, Sir Terence said. He said there was little public sympathy for the miners.

Dublin protest to envoy

The Prime Minister of the Irish Republic called in the British Ambassador in Dublin last night to protest over allegations that Royal Ulster Constabulary special branch officers had operated south of the border.

Dr Garrett FitzGerald's coalition government was said to be extremely angry over the claim that during the trial of a police officer at Belfast Crown Court, the dispute was seen as harming Anglo-Irish relations and has erupted at a particularly delicate time, with the New Ireland Forum considering its final report.

It has also embarrassed Dr FitzGerald, who must always project his "flank" from critics who claim he is being too friendly with Britain. It is the third time in four months that

Dr FitzGerald, Row an embarrassment

Dublin has protested to Britain over events in Northern Ireland. One source said: "Each time that happens is bigger than the previous event. It compounds one thing after another. We are extremely annoyed about this. It is not just embarrassing. It is much more than that."

The latest protest comes after the end of the trial of PC John Robinson, aged 29, who was found not guilty of murdering a terrorist, in Armagh city in 1982.

During part of his evidence, which was unchallenged by the prosecution, he said that RUC officers had invented a cover-up story surrounding events leading to the killing of Seamus Grew and that this was aimed at concealing that the RUC special branch had been operating in the republic.

A week ago, Mr Alan Goodison, the British Ambassador in Dublin, was told that any activities by the RUC in the republic were unacceptable.

Workers' shares in ports rise by 400%

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Dockers and other workers who bought shares in Britain's largest ports business when it was privatized last year have seen their investment grow by 400 per cent in little more than a year.

The employee share scheme at Associated British Ports has been so successful that the company is giving its 8,600 employees a second offer of shares at preferential rates.

Ninety per cent of the employees received a small holding of free shares when the company was floated on the stock market in February last year.

Forty per cent also took up the chance of buying extra shares at what was effectively half the price paid by the public.

Those shares, for which they paid 50p each, were worth 278p at yesterday's closing price. The only condition is that employees are not allowed to sell them until next February.

Employees buying shares at next week's market price will be given one share free for every one they buy. Mr Keith Stuart, the company chairman, said: "It would be wrong to say the scheme has turned everybody overnight from socialists to capitalists. But it has given them an awareness of what the business is, what makes it tick and the importance of profits."

The company operates 19 ports, including Southampton, Hull, Immingham and Port Talbot. Its pre-tax profits last year rose from £8.9m to £14.5m and the ports handled six million tonnes more business than the previous year.

Mr Stuart gave a warning, however, that the coal dispute could damage this year's profits if it stopped coal exports to Northern Ireland and Europe for a long time.

Tempus, page 21

MSC leader may be staff chief at No 10

By Peter Hennessy

There is a possibility that Mrs Margaret Thatcher will build a new-style Prime Minister's office around the person of Mr David Young, the businessman who is chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

If the plan, which is in its early stages, is implemented, Mr Young, aged 52, would leave the commission, be made a peer and a non-departmental Cabinet minister and serve as the Prime Minister's chief-of-staff in No 10.

His remit would be to reflect Mrs Thatcher's political will, be her progress chaser and insure that key elements in her second-term strategy were implemented.

The revival of the chief-of-staff idea, first floated when Mrs Thatcher was Leader of the Opposition in the late 1970s and again after the Falklands conflict, has been occasioned by the diminishing role of Mr David Wolfson, Mrs Thatcher's close aide and confidant in No 10. At his request he is working only one day a week in Downing Street.

Mrs Thatcher has a high regard for Mr Young and wants him to remain in government service after his spell at the commission. She is keen to replace Mr Wolfson and is prepared to risk the odium of ministerial colleagues and the opposition claiming she is establishing a personal presidential style of government and turning No 10 into a virtual Prime Minister's department.

Political sources were encouraging the idea that such a step would be an inevitable and desirable development given the growing demand on prime ministers in recent years.

Mr Young was described by an admirer as "rich, enigmatic, knows his own mind - he is quite capable of making it an important job."

MPs to investigate use of lie-detector

By Richard Evans

The use of the polygraph is to be investigated by the Commons Select Committee on Employment.

The committee is likely to request an interview with GCHQ employees at Cheltenham, where the lie detector went into use this week on the recommendation of the security commission which investigated the Prime spy case.

Members of the security commission will also be invited to give evidence.

The select committee, which produced a critical report in February on the Government's decision to ban unions at GCHQ, will look in particular at the polygraph's implication on industrial relations and employment.

Mr Greiville Janner, Labour MP for Leicester, West, recommended the topic, but it was unanimously agreed by his six Conservative and four Labour colleagues.

Mr John Gort, Conservative MP for Hendon, North and a senior committee member, said last night that he was concerned by expert claims about the machine's inaccuracy.

"I think that the interference of machinery in the daily lives of people is a threat not just to their rights as human beings or

their dignity, but also a form of intrusion into their privacy."

Mr Gort wanted the committee to examine the rights Parliament believed should exist for a person to decline to submit to a lie detector test, including employees at GCHQ.

"If it were generally accepted at GCHQ it sets a precedent which could be followed. This is the stage at which Parliament should be taking an interest before we are presented with a fait accompli."

Mr Ron Leighton, Labour MP for Newham North-east, and committee chairman, said: "We want to know if there is any intention to spread its use into other parts of the public service or the private sector."

The Council of Civil Service Unions has reaffirmed its opposition to the polygraph (Peter Hennessy writes).

In a letter to Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet Secretary, the council also says that many GCHQ staff have refused to surrender their trade union rights.

It says that Civil Service security procedures generally are a matter for national, not local, negotiations and that the polygraph project at Cheltenham "may well be a precursor to its more general application."

GCHQ suicide question

By Richard Dowden

The identity of the employee of the Government Communications Headquarters alleged yesterday to have committed suicide recently remains a secret, but trade union leaders blamed government pressure for the death.

Yesterday, Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, asked Mrs Thatcher in the Commons if she was aware of the suicide and to confirm "that there is a suicide note left, and that the note confirms that the reason for the suicide is attributed to the pressure put on that employee as a result of the Government's

policy of taking away the right to belong to a trade union."

Mrs Thatcher refused to comment on the note but said "any suicide, and I am aware of the one to which you refer, accompanied by a suicide note, will be a matter for the coroner."

A GCHQ spokesman in Cheltenham admitted that a member of staff had died "in unusual circumstances" but would not elaborate.

The deaths of all staff at GCHQ, other than from natural causes, are scrutinized by GCHQ's welfare and security division.

Seat belts given credit for 20% fall in casualties

The compulsory wearing of seat belts was estimated to have reduced fatal and serious casualties among car occupants in road accidents by an estimated 20 to 25 per cent, the Department of Transport said yesterday.

In its report on road casualties in 1983, based on provisional figures released yesterday, the department said that from February to December 1983, there were 475 fewer deaths among front-seat occupants of cars and light vans than in the same period in 1982, and 7,000 fewer serious injuries.

These reductions, of some 25 per cent, were despite a 1 per cent increase in car and light van traffic.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$20, Belgium 10, France 10, Canada 10, Denmark 10, Germany 10, Greece 10, Ireland 10, Italy 10, Japan 10, Korea 10, Luxembourg 10, Netherlands 10, New Zealand 10, Norway 10, Portugal 10, Spain 10, Sweden 10, Switzerland 10, Taiwan 10, Thailand 10, United Kingdom 10, USA 10, West Germany 10, Yugoslavia 10, Zaire 10



The Princess of Wales, with Sir Richard Bailey, chairman of Royal Doulton, watching finishing work on the company's five bone china products during a visit to the Royal Doulton factory at Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, yesterday.

£250m scheme unveiled to repair defective homes sold by councils

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Proposals to give financial help to house owners who bought council homes which were later found to be defective were outlined by the Government in its Housing Defects Bill published yesterday.

About 16,500 owners who bought prefabricated reinforced concrete homes from the public sector are included in the proposals, under which grants of up to 100 per cent will be offered for repairs. It is estimated the scheme could cost £250m.

House or flat owners whose homes the Government agrees are defective and who bought them from councils before the faults became generally known will be eligible for help.

Under the scheme, those eligible will have the right of assistance, and local authorities will be under a statutory duty to assist either by a repair grant or repurchase.

Grants of 90 per cent of the cost of correcting the faults will be made by local housing authorities with the full cost being met in cases of financial hardship.

If the local authority is not satisfied that the reinstated house would provide satisfactory accommodation for at least 30 years and be mortgageable with a leading institution in the private sector "it will be under a duty to repurchase the house at 95 per cent of its defect free value if the owner wishes".

Where a house or flat is repurchased under the Bill, the authority will be required to pay the owner's reasonable legal expenses, and will be required if necessary to grant him a secure tenancy in the house or flat or in other suitable accommodation.

The Government is to meet 90 per cent of the repair costs paid by the housing authority, and will also provide 75 per cent of the authority's expenditure in excess of a home's effective value in cases of repurchase.

About 170,000 of the prefabricated houses were built in Britain, mainly during the 1950s. The Government has been forced to act because of their deterioration. The cost of repairs could be about £8,000 a house, but to repurchase them would cost about £18,000 a house.

The announcement failed to satisfy the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. Mr John Donnelly, chairman of the association's housing committee, said the legislation "only played at meeting the crisis of Britain's crumbling housing".

There were £10,000m worth of housing defects waiting to be repaired, he said. Those defects affect some 300 types of industrialized housing. The Government's answer is a trifling Bill that will help only those people who own their own homes and then only if they happen to own one of the 26 types the Government has chosen to identify.

Builders offer guarantees

By Our Property Correspondent

The building industry is hoping to set up a guarantee scheme under which remedial work up to the value of £25,000 will be carried out to rectify defective home improvement work.

The scheme, put forward by the Building Employers Confederation, is intended to encourage householders to use reputable builders for home improvements rather than employ cowboy builders from whom there is no redress.

Before the scheme can be implemented, the confederation has to get the approval of the Restrictive Practices Court.

and a hearing is to be held in June.

The confederation yesterday declined to comment on the issue but the draft guarantee scheme is being studied by the Office of Fair Trading.

The confederation has been increasingly concerned at the activities of the cowboy builders, which it describes as a "malignant cancer that may soon be inoperable". It estimates that the black economy in the building industry is worth £2,000m. "Cowboys" carry basic public liability and works insurance or have sufficient funds to reinstate damaged work," it said.

Wife has latest lung and heart transplant

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A young mother was given a new heart and lungs yesterday in only the third operation of its kind in Britain. Both earlier patients died.

Between the death of the second patient, Mrs Jean Jones, on Monday, and the operation yesterday on Mrs Brenda Barker, there have been two heart transplants, which support a growing belief that the public has become more conscious of the value of donor organs.

Mrs Barker, aged 36, from Lewisham, south London was in a "satisfactory" condition after becoming the first patient at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, to have a heart-lung transplant. The previous two operations were performed at Harfield Hospital, west London.

The five-hour operation was led by a senior surgeon, Mr John Wallwork, who has helped with heart-lung surgery at Stanford University Hospital, California, where the technique was pioneered. He was assisted by Mr Terence English, head of the transplant unit at Papworth, and Mr Richard Cory-Pearce.

Mrs Barker was one of several patients on a short-list of about 30 who had been referred to the hospital by their family doctors.

She had been ill with fibrosis, a condition which congests lungs. The decision to give her a new heart as well as lungs is understood to have been based on evidence that lung trans-

plants on their own have a high failure rate.

A hospital spokesman, Mr John Edwards, said that the operation "went forward smoothly". Mrs Barker was later visited by her husband, Stephen, a businessman. The couple have a daughter, Samantha Jane, aged five.

Papworth surgeons have been researching heart-lung transplant techniques for two years and consider the surgery a natural extension of their heart transplant programme.

They have been ready for the past three months, once a suitable patient and donor organs became available. An important part of the research has been into ways of transporting delicate lung tissue without the movement of the donor's body from one hospital to another. In yesterday's operation, the distance involved was considered too large, and the donor's body was brought to Papworth.

The identity of the donor was not released at the request of relatives, who wanted no publicity.

Mrs Jean Jones, who died in Harfield Hospital, survived 17 days after her operation. The first heart-lung transplant at Harfield, Mr Lars Ljungberg, died 14 days after his operation in December.

Two heart transplant operations were carried out at Harfield this week.

Judges' pay 'low' for barristers

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Barristers may be deterred from taking up appointments as circuit judges because of the present pay levels, Mr Michael Wright, QC, chairman of the Bar, said yesterday. He welcomed the Lord Chancellor's announcement that the number of full-time circuit judges in England and Wales, now 348, was to be increased by 10 per cent.

"We are very happy to see more judges appointed so that backlogs in the crown court can be cut further and there will be less reliance on part-time work by recorders," Mr Wright said.

He added, however, that although there was no question that the Bar had sufficient numbers of high-quality candidates for the job, the difficulty would be "in persuading QCs to leave their practices for a salary of £31,000, when they are probably earning twice that."

The salary was quite inadequate for a job demanding such a high level of responsibility, he said. Nor was there now the added incentive of pension entitlement.

The new appointments are being made because of a 45 per cent increase in crown court cases between 1979 and 1983, with resulting delays for those awaiting trial, especially in London.

Mr Wright urged an increase in the salary levels if good judges were to be appointed.

Video disc company to open 20 centres

By Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

Pioneer, the Japanese hi-fi company which makes video discs based on Philips technology, is to open 20 centres around Britain in the next six months. This is the latest attempt by a disc manufacturer to raise people's awareness of the product.

The news comes after an announcement by RCA, the American manufacturer of a rival system, to pull out of the market after writing off about £340m in the past five years. The American decision now means that Philips may have taken a step toward creating a standard video disc. The RCA system uses a sort of stylus, while the Philips design uses a laser.

However, Hitachi will continue to manufacture and market the RCA system in Britain. An RCA statement said: "We took the video disc decision with disappointment in the face of continuing losses and narrowing prospects that the business would turn profitable."

Pioneer plans to expand to move more than 40 centres within a year as the company attempts to get disc players into 10 per cent of British homes. The centres, which will be in existing hi-fi stores, will demonstrate the players and stock at least half of the 430-disc disc catalogue. Later the promotion will be taken into department stores.

A Pioneer marketing executive said: "The laser disc is such a brand new technology and the awareness of it so low that the only way to sell it is to get the consumer to experience it."

RCA had sold about 10,000 of its machines in the United States.

In the past two years, Pioneer has sold about 90,000 machines in the United States and 100,000 in Japan. Its product is geared principally toward the hi-fi market.

Two weeks ago, Philips announced a cut in the price of video disc players in Britain to bring them into line with RCA. This makes some Philips models half the price of Pioneer's.

Computers to help injured

By Our Technology Correspondent

A new Bristol-based charity which will use microcomputer games to aid the recovery of accident victims suffering brain damage is to be launched next month.

The new organization called the Head Injury Recovery Trust will be launched with an appeal for £45,000 and will provide the finance necessary for 10 microcomputers and the support staff required for the project.

Computer games apparently help the victims of motor cycling and sporting accidents to recover their concentration and decision-making functions.

The scheme is based on the work performed at the Burden Neurological Institute and the Department of Neurosurgery at the Frenchay Hospital, both in Bristol.

Aerobic classes 'causing epidemic of injuries'

By Our Science Correspondent

Aerobic fitness classes have produced a near epidemic of injuries, according to physical education experts.

A course in health and exercise studies has been launched for aspiring aerobics teachers, partly to combat what some experts describe as poorly instructed and poorly supervised classes.

The Jane Fonda Work Out book was criticized at a news conference on Wednesday to announce the new course.

Yesterday, Miss Nadine Hobson, a registered osteopath representing the British School of Osteopathy's sports clinic, said: "Aerobics will help keep women fit but they won't make them fit."

"Women should adapt exercises, such as those advocated

by Jane Fonda, to their own bodies, and not attempt to adapt their bodies to the exercises."

The clinic said: "There are 60 new cases of injury being recorded in the London area alone each month from aerobics classes of this kind. The medical profession is very concerned at what is almost an epidemic of these injuries."

Miss Karim Rankin, of the Physical Education Association, said: "Aerobics under certain circumstances can cause damage, particularly back injuries. People should not just throw themselves into this type of exercise."

The new course, lasting 120 hours, has been devised by the association with the support of the Back Pain

direction of an instructor from Lewes prison.

This joyless approach to the new season will doubtless have caused Wisden to grate furiously beneath his gleaming memorial.

One can only hope he was mollified by the tributes paid to him by David Frith, Australian-born editor of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*.

Mr Frith, whose unquenchable enthusiasm for the great games of cricket has led him to the discovery of more than 150 cricketers' graves, traced Wisden's last resting place a year ago.

Wisden would also have appreciated a singularly appropriate address from the Ven Timothy Raphael, Archbishop of Middlesex, who called on God to guide all those present along the right path, and "to lead us to avoid all that is not cricket".

Other highlights of the festival, from August 12 to September 1, are ballooning and kite flying.

Dr Jones will not face charges

By a Staff Reporter

No action is to be taken against Dr Robert Jones over the murder of his wife, the Director of Public Prosecutions announced yesterday.

Suffolk police said in a statement yesterday: "The Suffolk Constabulary has been advised by the Director of Public Prosecutions that, as matters stand, there is insufficient evidence to justify the institution of proceedings against Dr Jones for the murder of his wife. Inquiries into the death of Diane Jones will continue."

The DPP's office, which has been studying police files on the murder since February, would not add to that statement.

The battered body of Mrs Jones, aged 35, was found in a wood in Brightwell, Suffolk, last October, three months after she had disappeared from their home in Coggeshall, Essex.

Dr Jones aged 41, was on police bail during the murder investigation and in November he was arrested and questioned for more than 54 hours.

In early February he was interviewed for a further seven hours at Suffolk police headquarters, near Ipswich. He told a television reporter that at the first interview police offered him a deal on sentencing, if he would confess to the murder.

Police searched the doctor's house, drilled holes in a chimney breast, dug up his garden seven times and excavated a large trench beside a new by-pass outside his home.

Dr Jones, who once said that

he was not just a suspect but the only suspect, told reporters outside his home yesterday: "No one in my position could fail to be relieved that he constant pressure of the past nine months will be lifted. I have had to put up with the continuous attentions of the media, with people parked outside my house day and night, and cameras trained on my windows."

The decision was given to Dr Jones a general practitioner, yesterday by Det Chief Supt Eric Shields, head of Suffolk CID.

Afterwards, Mr David Church, Dr Jones's solicitor, said: "Dr Jones has maintained his innocence throughout, and this conclusion is entirely consistent with that. Now he just wants to be left alone to lead his life in peace."



Dr Jones: Criticized media attention.

Blood sample plea illegal

From Our Correspondent, Walspool

Walspool Crown court yesterday allowed an appeal by a motorist who claimed that a police request for a blood sample had been unlawful.

Richard Arthur Edwards, aged 33, of White Friars, Oswestry, appealed against conviction and sentence for failing to provide a blood sample.

Mr Philip Hughes, for the police, said Mr Edwards had pleaded not guilty in the lower court and had been fined £130 and disqualified for 12 months.

Police Constable Martyn Phillips said the Walspool police station's intometer was not working that night and Mr Edwards had been asked to a blood sample and had refused.

Mrs Elwen Evans, for Mr Edwards, said he had been prepared to give a breath or urine sample. It was an essential

part of the statutory provision that the officer conducting the procedure exercised discretion in deciding whether blood or urine was provided if the intometer was not available.

Six-months' test

The Home Office has appointed a scientist to study the results of the six-month period during which motorists failing evidential breath tests will be able to insist on blood or urine tests (a Staff Reporter writes).

In a written Commons reply yesterday Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State, announced the appointment of Professor Sir William Paton, professor of pharmacology at Oxford University, to conduct an independent scrutiny of the monitoring programme.

ADVERTISEMENT

GLENDA JACKSON is troubled...

In Iran, children are forced to watch their mothers being tortured. In the Soviet Union, psychiatrists give drugs as punishment to prisoners. In El Salvador, children have been tortured. Relatives of wanted people in Syria have been held hostage and tortured.

Amnesty International, the international human rights organisation, has launched a campaign to end this barbaric practice. Amnesty has detailed evidence from over 90 countries worldwide on the torture and deliberate ill-treatment of prisoners.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Your support is vital if torture is to be eradicated. Send us a donation for our work and/or become a member. You will be sent ideas for other ways you can participate in the campaign.

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Wisden wins his applause in granite

By Rupert Morris

The golf between cricketers past and present was poignantly illustrated yesterday by a ceremony at one Brompton Cemetery in west London to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the death of John Wisden, of Sussex and England, and, more importantly, founder of the

game's bible, *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*. John Barclay, captain of Essex, had been due to unveil the black granite headstone commissioned by the Wisden organization, but decided against it, insisting he had to attend the county's first serious training session, under the

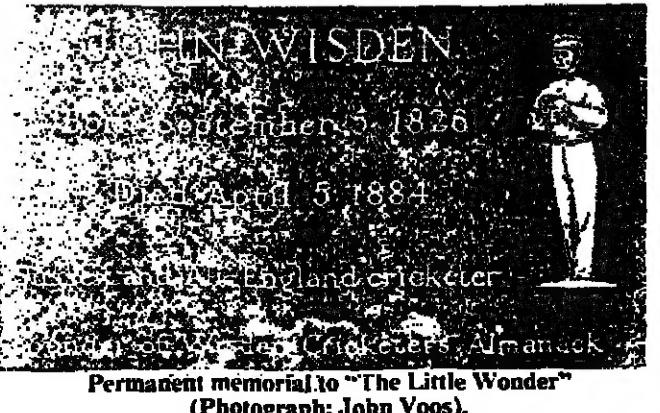
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Wisden would also have



Permanent memorial to "The Little Wonder" (Photograph: John Voos).

PARLIAMENT, APRIL 5 1984

Machine guns ordered by Labour in 1976

POLICING

In 1976 the then Labour administration authorized the Metropolitan Police to buy some conventional sub-machine guns, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, revealed in the Commons. She was replying to Mr James Callaghan who became Prime Minister in April 1976 and who during question time criticized the recent approval of the purchase of up to a dozen 9mm Heckler and Koch MP5K compact sub-machine guns.

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab) had said: "I am giving permission for the Metropolitan Police to acquire sub-machine guns, has the Government considered the impact of this serious further step in arming the police on the relationship between police and public and the nature of the police service itself?"

Recognizing the dilemma of the Government in protecting heads of government, would it not be preferable to give responsibility to members of the regular Armed Services when faced with a short-term need which could have an effect, by arming the police with sub-machine guns, on the tra-

ditional character of the police force, sacrificing long-term benefits of traditional policing to short-term need?

Mrs Thatcher: The Home Secretary agreed to a request from the Metropolitan Police for the purchase of a small number of sub-machine guns.

As I indicated on Tuesday, and as Mr Callaghan will recall, perhaps, it is within public knowledge that as long ago as 1976 the then Labour administration approved the acquisition by the Metropolitan Police of a small number of conventional sub-machine guns, for possible use in a terrorist emergency. I am sure the then Home Secretary had that very much in mind.

Mr Callaghan rose to put another question but was not called. Mr Eddow Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C): Authorization of this purchase by the police was given by Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP) when he was Home Secretary.

When the Leader of the Opposition seeks to make mischief and to attack the British police for doing what his own party authorized them to do, he is stabbing in the back the best police service in the world. (Labour protests)

Mrs Thatcher: I am sure that any Home Secretary would consider that request very carefully and I am sure that Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, did so, and had very good reason for granting it.

Mr Kinnock, on a point of order, later denied Mr Griffiths's assertion that he had attacked the police.

That has never been true, is not true and never will be true (he said). My reference to the use of sub-machine guns, to their provision for bodyguard purposes, is anything but an attack on the police for whom I have every respect.

Mr Griffiths is sponsored here by the Police Federation. My opinions are held in common with Mr Callaghan, with the editor of *Gun Review*, himself a former inspector of police who said the Government's position was horrendous, and with the editor of *The Times*.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said that provocative things were said in the House, from both sides but he did not want to have an extension of question time.

After the business for next week had been announced, Mr Callaghan asked Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, to ask the Prime Minister for a further statement on the best method of safeguarding visiting heads of government in Britain.

Will he be continued? ask her to make available to me the papers on which the decision was taken by Mr Roy Jenkins in 1976 so that I may have every respect.

While that does not alter the present situation it seems appropriate that some serious consideration should be given to this matter.

Drink-drive deaths Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, in a written Commons reply, said that provisional estimates for 1983 showed that 33 per cent of car drivers killed in road traffic accidents in Great Britain were over the current breathalysers limit.

Mr Steel asked: Will she justify the sudden severe cut in milk production, in which Britain was less than self-sufficient, whereas France overproduces but has only one third of the cuts. For small dairy farmers, this will spell financial disaster.

Mrs Thatcher: In liquid milk, we are self-sufficient and in dairy products, nearly so, and perhaps so even in the worst account imports from New Zealand.

I thought perhaps Mr Steel was in favour of the Community, on agricultural policy. I do not accept what he says. I hope, he agrees with current decisions to reduce overall surpluses in the interests of the Community, especially those to pay for surpluses, which are subsidized.

Mr Watkinson: Will Mrs Thatcher find time in the not too distant future to visit some of my dairy producers and explain to them why the full burden of the responsibility of successive governments in the European Community is being placed on their shoulders?

Being in mind the scheme introduced by the coal and steel industries, will the Government introduce a United Kingdom-funded scheme here?

Mrs Thatcher: There are dairy farmers in the Community who are taking as big a cut: Germany and Holland slightly larger cuts, for example.

It was necessary to try to reduce surpluses which are being stockpiled. A year's supply of butter is stockpiled.

Callaghan: Let me see who made mistake method of safeguarding visiting heads of government in Britain.

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Londoners to get right to vote for education authority

EDUCATION

The Government's decision that the body to replace the Inner London Education Authority should be directly elected rather than a joint board of appointees was announced in a statement in the Commons by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Reacting to the statement, Mr Andrew Bennett, an Opposition spokesman, said that the decision should be made subject to statutory review in the light of experience.

Mr Andrew Bennett, for the Opposition: Will the boroughs be able to opt out of the new authority or have any powers of veto?

Sir Keith Joseph: We are not in any way qualifying the decision to abolish the GLC and the metropolitan county councils, to be introduced in the next session.

It remains our intention that the new education authority for inner London should be made subject to statutory review in the light of experience.

On the boroughs opting out, the Government had decided that the continuing education authority should be a unitary education authority for inner London. There would be in the main Bill a power to review these arrangements following a study of how the replacement authority does.

It was agreed that inner London certainly faced extra costs on education but these extra costs were provided for in the special features built in to the rate support grant.

There was also no truth in the allegation she added, that 33 tube stations and 32 bus routes would close when the Government assumed responsibility. There was no hit list. Such claims made by the GLC were totally without foundation and of a worsted Londoners.

For 1984-85, the Government had approved a £300m subsidy for London Transport, contrary to the scurrilous rumours put about by the GLC-financed campaign bandwagon.

Mrs Chalker was moving a new clause imposing a duty on London Regional Transport to publish an annual business plan covering its activities and the effect of its subsidisation in the light of any guidance given by the Secretary of State.

She said the Opposition had tabled amendments suggesting that still more detail should be included in the plans. These were either misguided or superfluous.

The first Opposition amendment was rejected by 260 votes to 167 - Government majority 93.

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No plans to close Tube stations

LONDON

There were no plans to close any Tube station or any bus route, said Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, in the Commons when she reported the stage of the London Regional Transport Bill.

There was also no truth in the allegation she added, that 33 tube stations and 32 bus routes would close when the Government assumed responsibility. There was no hit list. Such claims made by the GLC were totally without foundation and of a worsted Londoners.

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Finance should determine spending

THE ECONOMY

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, assured the Commons during questions that it was his firm intention that finance should determine expenditure, and not the other way round.

Too often in the past (he said) expenditure has been allowed to grow in response to perceived needs. This led to a total of expenditure far greater than the economy could safely carry and to many of the problems we had in the past.

That is why it is our firm intention to ensure that public expenditure in total is maintained within what the economy can afford, allowing for a further reduction in public borrowing and a further reduction in taxation.

He was confident that the Budget measures would give the British economy the best chance of sustaining and continuing the sound recovery now under way - the soundest for a very long time.

Various parts of the economy would benefit from this.

When Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C) asked for a statement on the public sector borrowing requirement following recent changes in interest rates, Mr Lawson replied: The Budget estimate for the PSBR for 1983-84 was £10,000m or 34 per cent of GDP. The estimate will be published on Tuesday, April 17. The PSBR forecast for 1984-85 is £7,250m or 24 per cent of GDP.

Mr Leigh: Given that the PSBR is a proportion of GDP, is it not a decline from 3.4 per cent in 1979 to 34 per cent today and interest rates have declined from 12 per cent to 8 per cent, would he be confident that the Government has an industrial policy to 'borrow' to? In other words, the more the Government borrows the harder it is for anyone else.

Mr Lawson: He is quite right. One of the Government's main objectives in bringing the borrowing requirement down, as it has, is to ensure that the continued reduction in inflation will be achieved alongside a steady reduction in interest rates.

If we compare the United States with the United Kingdom, since 1979 UK long-term rates have been reduced by 3 per cent and over the same period US long-term rates have risen by 3 per cent.

Mr Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw, Lab): When we are borrowing the building societies wanted to increase interest rates they deferred until after the June election. When they wanted to reduce them they did it in May which affected the rate of increase in savings this coming November. How does the Government manage to train its poodles so well?

Mr Lawson: The building societies take their own decisions in their own time. This Government, unlike the previous Labour Government, does not seek to intervene.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): How will the sale of £2,000m worth of BT stock and other public sector stock sales later this year affect the market? Will it not cause crowding out?

Mr Lawson: It will not cause crowding out. There is ample capacity both for the reduced Government borrowing and for the amount of equity issues both in the private and public sectors. It will assist in reducing the demands the Government has to make on the gilt-edged market.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: If there is a simple relationship between Government borrowing and interest rates, why is it in Germany, Spain, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands there are larger levels of government borrowing but lower long-term interest rates?

Mr Lawson: The countries he mentions have been successful in getting inflation down to lower levels than we have so far. Interest rates are also affected by the level of inflation and therefore Government policy is a combination of public borrowing and inflation down.

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Satellite status for GLC

PM'S QUESTIONS

The Prime Minister restated her determination to abolish the Greater London Council and the six Metropolitan county councils when faced with a demand during questions from Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, to scrap such plans.

Mr Kinnock declared: Is not the Prime Minister ashamed to be bringing before Parliament a Bill that will remove voting rights from 13 million electors in Greater London and the metropolitan counties? Will she, in the name of basic British democracy, ensure that this Bill is withdrawn?

Mrs Thatcher: No. (Conservative laughter).

Mr Kinnock: I note the humour of Conservative MPs at the removal of those democratic rights. Is not this exactly the misuse and abuse of government power of which Mr Francis Pym (Cambridgeshire, C) warned during the general election?

Will the Prime Minister try at some stage to provide facts that are supposed to support her case for taking away that? When in any democratic country did any democratic government give satellite

status to the council of its own capital city?

Mrs Thatcher: The policy was endorsed by the votes of 13 million people at the general election. (Labour protests)

Mr Kinnock: If she is referring to her manifesto, there is no mention of any description about the abolition of the right to vote in any circumstances. She may have a mandate for certain things but she has no mandate whatsoever for imposing puppet councils on London and the metropolitan counties.

Mrs Thatcher: The abolition of the GLC and Metropolitan County Councils was promised in our manifesto. I intend to carry out those obligations.

Mr Kinnock: I am not quite sure that the council of its own capital city?

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Reagan's chemical ban offer doubles as election campaign ploy

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan's new initiative to outlaw chemical weapons worldwide is an attempt in part by the White House to capture the political high ground in the debate on arms control which has become one of the main issues of the US election campaign.

Mr Reagan has come under strong pressure since the campaign got under way to show progress on arms control, particularly since the Soviet Union decided at the end of last year to break off talks in Geneva on Strategic and Medium-range nuclear weapons.

All three Democratic candidates have been strongly critical of the Reagan Administration's arms control record.

Mr Reagan's announcement at a White House press conference on Wednesday night that Vice-President George Bush will submit a draft treaty before the end of this month to the UN Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, proposing a global ban on chemical weapons, represents an effort by the Administration to make progress in an area where the Soviet Union has indicated that movement might be possible.

The Soviet Union put its own draft treaty on chemical weapons before the UN committee some time ago and the Soviet leader, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, has indicated he is prepared to offer some concessions to facilitate an accord.

In a statement at the opening of the press conference, Mr Reagan linked his new proposal with the failure so far of his other arms control initiatives to produce agreements with the Soviet Union.

The draft treaty, which was first revealed by Mr George Shultz the Secretary of State, at January's conference in Stockholm on security in Europe, calls for a total ban on the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons. It also contains far-reaching verification procedures for on-site inspections on demand.

Apart from the domestic political considerations, the President's initiative was also prompted by growing evidence that such weapons are being used in Afghanistan, South-East Asia and in the war between Iraq and Iran.

No new chemical weapons have been made in the US since the Nixon administration

placed a moratorium on production in 1969.

At his press conference, the twenty-third of his presidency, Mr Reagan repeatedly criticized Congress for its role on such issues as El Salvador, Lebanon, the War Powers Act and for the "sleaze factor" charges which are being directed against his appointees, notably Mr Edwin Meese, the presidential counselor.

Admitting that the United States had lost some credibility because of the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon, he said Congress should "take some responsibility for this" because the fierce debate which took place on Capitol Hill had undermined his Administration's diplomatic efforts in Lebanon.

● MOSCOW: President Reagan's call for worldwide ban on chemical weapons was dismissed here as "nothing short of a propaganda trick". Tass said the White House would use Mr Reagan's initiative to "camouflage and justify a speedy build-up of its own chemical arms arsenal".

He had put forward "patently unacceptable condition for verification".

US uses veto to defeat condemnation of rebels

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The United States has used its veto to defeat a resolution in the United Nations Security Council that condemned the recent mining of Nicaraguan ports by American-backed rebels.

Nicaragua went to the council last week with charges that the United States was promoting terrorist acts against its economic and military installations. It said a US warship had been seen off the Nicaraguan coast at about the same time that a Soviet oil tanker struck a mine in Puerto Sandino on March 20.

For all the vehemence in Nicaraguan statements during the council debate, the draft resolution was diluted to gain the widest possible acceptance. In provoking an American veto, leaving the United States isolated, it allowed the Nicaraguans to prove a point and receive at least diplomatic compensation for the 11 mine

explosions that have been reported in the past 40 days.

Thirteen other countries supported the draft, while Britain abstained. Both Britain and the United States found the draft flawed in failing to address the broader question of violence in all of Central America.

Sir John Thompson, the British representative, expressed opposition to the mining of Nicaraguan ports and deplored any threat to freedom of navigation. But he said that the draft lacked balance in omitting provisions related to economic and social development in Central America, a central theme of the Contadora group of peacemakers in the region.

The efforts of the Contadora group were applauded throughout the four-day debate, but beyond presenting 21 goals for Central America the group has had little success in its mission.

New Honduras chief, page 7

Double agent accused of double cross

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

A former US Army counterintelligence specialist has been arrested on charges of selling to the Soviet Union information about an American double agent operation aimed at penetrating the KGB.

Mr Richard Craig Smith, aged 40, of Bellevue, Washington State, was arrested at Dulles airport on Wednesday by FBI agents as he arrived in Washington.

Mr Smith, who worked for the Army's Intelligence and Security Command from 1973 to 1980, was charged with transmitting national defence information.

It is alleged that Smith met Mr V. Klor Okunev at the Soviet commercial compound in Tokyo in November 1982 and transferred classified information concerning Royal Miter, an American Army intelligence and security command double agent operation.



Making waves: The Soviet nuclear powered cruiser Kirov heading south off the Norwegian coast.

Soviet exercises leave West in disarray

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The confusion which Nato has been thrown into by the emergence this week of the largest ever Russian deployment of naval forces to the west of Norway, was reflected in conflicting statements by Nato's top naval commander and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

On Wednesday evening, while on a ceremonial visit to

alliance forces at Wilhelmshaven in West Germany, Admiral Wesley McDonald, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, said that Nato had been

"startled but not shaken" by the Russian build-up.

When that was put to Mr Heseltine in London he said: "I do not think one wants to take such a critical view. Nato was aware of what was happening and the broad situation was understood by us." He denied that there had been any slowness in passing intelligence reports from Nato's Eastern Atlantic headquarters at Northwood in Middlesex to Admiral McDonald's headquarters at Norfolk, Virginia.

Admiral McDonald said that

he had been aware that an unusually large number of Soviet ships were leaving port towards the end of last month.

However, two Nato ships which had been in Wilhelmshaven for an historic change of command, which sees the Standing Naval Force Atlantic commanded for the first time by a West German, had to leave the ceremony to increase the Nato presence off Norway.

Nato sources said yesterday that the Russian exercise appeared to be in its final

stages. Most units taking part were thought to be on their way home.

About 50 fighting ships, including about 20 submarines, are thought to have joined in the exercise.

Apart from being a demonstration of the Russians' ability to mount major forces in the crucial area between Norway and the Greenland, Iceland, Faeroes gap, the exercise is seen in the West as a kind of riposte to the celebrations of Nato's thirty-fifth anniversary, which occurred on Wednesday.

German captain takes over top Nato command

From Ian Murray Wilhelmshaven

For the first time since the Second World War a German officer is in charge of a deep-sea naval task force, based in the historic harbour of Wilhelmshaven.

Captain Klaus Schwabe yesterday took over command of Nato's only "fulltime" North Atlantic unit just as two of its little grey destroyers were dispatched to shadow the huge Soviet naval exercise which has been building up in the North Norwegian Sea over the past week.

And Admiral Wesley McDonald, who had stayed so silent when he commanded the American invasion of Grenada last October, made the most of the change in command by firing a warning shot across the bows of Nato Defence Minis-



Captain Schwabe: A first for West Germany

ters, who are trying to steer as economical a course as possible.

The admiral, who is Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, confessed that he had been "startled but not shaken" by the impressive speed and competence of the Soviet build-up.

It proved impossible yesterday morning to hold the change-of-command ceremony on board ship as planned. Mists swirling in from the North Sea forcing the dignitaries, band, flagbearers and guard of honour into the naval-base canteen for the proud moment.

The Guard of Honour had scarcely room to "off caps" as the chaplain blessed them as "an instrument of peace in a broken world". The diminutive second lieutenant with the large voice made the audience wince as he crashed out his orders to the guard.

The men of the Dutch ship Kortenaar had been planning a party the previous evening and had invited 50 girls along. In a true gesture of Nato solidarity they handed over their party, complete with the girls, to the crew of HMS Euryalus as they sailed off to do their duty.

Space trio loosen up with yoga

Moscow (AP) - India's first spaceman and his two Soviet colleagues on board the Salyut 7 station practiced yoga and other medical experiments in their first full day in orbit yesterday, Tass reported.

Rakesh Sharma, aged 35, mission commander Yuri Malyshev and crew member Gennadi Strekalov used special collars in the experiments, designed to reduce the flow of blood towards the head due to weightlessness.

Two of the three other cosmonauts on Salyut 7 since February 9 assisted.

Sharma and his two colleagues will return to Earth on April 10 on Soyuz 10, the spacecraft that took the first trio up. Soyuz 11 which took them aloft on Wednesday will stay attached to the Salyut.

Executions in two stakes

Starke, Florida (Reuters) - Two convicted killers were electrocuted yesterday in the United States. Florida executed Arthur Goode, aged 30, sex murderer of a nine-year-old boy, who said he would kill again if released.

Elmo Sonner, aged 35, died in Louisiana state prison at Angola for shooting two teenagers in a lovers' lane in November, 1977.

Micro Koran

Bangkok (AP) A Muslim Thai businessman unveiled what he says is the world's first computer containing the full text of the Koran. Its 2,000-plus pages are all neatly stored in five computer discs and available at the push of a button.

China service

Peking (AFP) - China is to begin producing table tennis robots which can serve fast drives, loops, spins and drop shots close to the net at the rate of 25 to 90 a minute. Five trial models got top player's approval.

Life begins...

Reggio Calabria (Reuters) - A 100-year-old woman has been elected to the public health board of the southern Italian town of Taurianova. "I mean to carry out my duties as actively as possible," said Signora Maria Rosa Toscano, a Socialist, accepting the job with enthusiasm.

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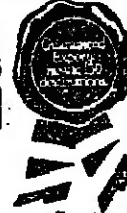
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Of course, it's a pretty unlikely event that this will happen. But isn't it better to be shipping cargo under guarantee?

As it's often said, "A promise alone isn't worth the paper it's written on."

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Union officials clash with workers as Lorraine steelmen go on rampage

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Worker was pitted against worker early yesterday as members of the Communist-led CGT union intervened in the steel town of Longwy, in Lorraine, to try to stop violence by a group of young demonstrators who went on the rampage in protest against the Government's plans for restructuring the steel industry.

After a relatively peaceful demonstration by about 25,000 people in Longwy on Wednesday afternoon, a couple of hundred steel workers started trying to provoke a clash with the police, throwing stones, steel balls, petrol bombs and bottles of acid. They set up barricades of burning tyres across the street, broke a bank's windows and set fire to a large house belonging to the Usinor steel company.

The beautiful house, which used to belong to one of the great Lorraine ironmasters of the last century, was burnt to the ground. Firemen were prevented from reaching the fire by barricades set up by the masked demonstrators.

Michelle Manque, the caretaker and only person living in the building, fled after being promised that her three-room flat on the second floor would not be touched. All her belongings, save a few clothes and personal effects, were destroyed. The police did not intervene until 2 am yesterday, when they charged a small, hard-core of demonstrators, using tear gas and anti-riot grenades. Several people on both sides were injured, including a young steel worker whose hand was blown off as he was trying to lob an

unexploded grenade back at the police.

The violence was brought to an end after about 50 CGT militants and officials, armed with iron bars and pick-axe handles, forced the demonstrators to stop their action. "You are playing into the hands of our enemies," the officials said.

More than 20 people were held by the police.

Fishermen blockade French ships

A strike by French seamen for early retirement has gathered momentum, with 11 French vessels blockaded in Dunkirk and Le Havre, trade union sources said.

The CGT and CFTD unions called on Tuesday for seamen to delay all French vessels from leaving ports by 72 hours.

Cross-channel ferries have so far not been affected by the strike, but a date for a one-day strike by French seamen on ferries will shortly be fixed, a CGT spokesman said.

Echoing the words of M Georges Marchais, leader of the Communist Party, M Henri Krasucki, secretary of the CGT, said yesterday that the Government had promised an industrial policy of "development, renaissance and reconquest of the domestic market... and the reverse is being done, not only in steel, but in a whole series of other sectors".

He called on workers to bring their full weight to bear on this "unacceptable" situation by

mass union action on a united front.

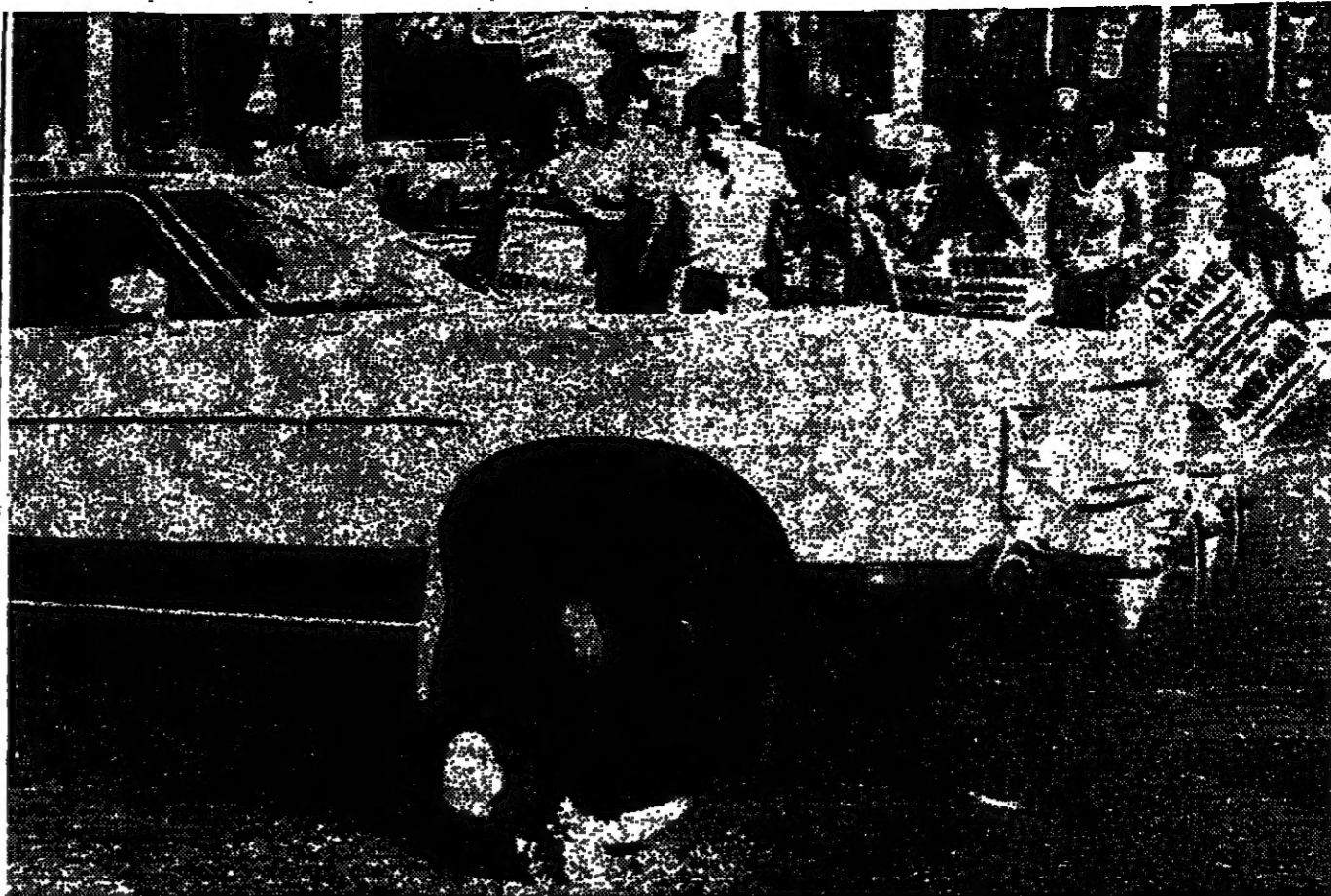
The Communist Mayor of Ouzange, an iron-mining town in Lorraine, resigned from the party yesterday in protest against its continued participation in a government which, he maintained, was carrying out right-wing policies by dismantling the steel industry and making workers redundant.

Mr Laurent Fabius, Minister of Industry and Research and now head of the new "super-ministry" of industrial re-employment just formed by President Mitterrand, announced in Parliament yesterday that Lorraine would soon receive 500m francs (£43m) from the special fund which the Government was setting up to help to bring new industries and jobs to the hardest-hit areas.

M Fabius said he would be meeting union representatives, employers and politicians from Lorraine early next week. Lorraine was regarded as a national priority; no effort would be spared in the Government's attempts to ensure the success of its reconstruction and development plans for the region.

M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, announced that negotiations were under way with Renault, the Compagnie Générale d'Electricité, Rhône-Poulenc and Matra with a view to their setting up enterprises in the 14 new "industrial conversion zones", with priority being given to Lorraine.

Companies creating new jobs or enterprises in the zones will be eligible for substantial tax benefits.



A striker who tried to stop a car lies crushed under its wheel. His condition was later described as stable.

Strikers threaten lifeblood of Las Vegas

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

These are hard times for Las Vegas hotels and casinos. Badly hit by the booming east coast gambling resort of Atlantic City, Las Vegas is now gripped by a huge strike that began on Sunday and has so far led to more than 100 arrests and violence.

On Wednesday one picket was seriously injured outside Caesar's Palace Hotel when he was crushed by a car he tried to stop. Another man was re-

ported to have been caught carrying three light bulbs filled with petrol.

So far all the 29 hotels affected by the strike, including some of the most famous in the world such as the MGM Grand, Caesar's Palace, the Flamingo and the Las Vegas Hilton, have stayed open, but barely, and management is doing essential jobs.

Some 17,000 hotel and casino workers went on strike on Sunday night and began picketing the hotels. On strike

are three unions whose members include waiters, waitresses, bellboys, porters, musicians, stagehands and cooks. They are striking for a 5 per cent increase in wages and other benefits over the next four years.

The violence increased amid management denials that the strike was not affecting business. However, some hotels have dropped room and food prices to record lows. Caesar's Palace cut its rates from \$95 (\$65) \$35 (\$24) the Flamingo

and Hilton reduced all rooms by 30 per cent.

Yesterday, unions complained that police were ill-treating pickets and they demanded that Governor Richard Bryan of Nevada order the National Guard to send in troops to protect the pickets. However, not everyone is disgruntled at the violence and strikes. One hotel guest said: "The drinks are stronger - they're using makeshift bartenders and the drinks are great."

E Berlin rules out return of migrants

From Michael Blayon, Bonn

East Germany has given an official warning to its citizens that anyone who emigrates will never be allowed to return. The statement, published by the state news agency, ADN, is seen as an attempt to curb the flood of applications to emigrate to West Germany.

So far this year about 15,000 people have left for the West - more than at any time since the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.

West German officials believe that the exodus is an attempt by the authorities to rid the country of malcontents and potential trouble-makers, but the East Germans have now become worried that too many are seizing the opportunity to leave.

The agency said that many former East German citizens had asked to go back in recent months. "Responsible sources stated that such an appeal, although understandable, cannot be granted."

The eight-line statement is the first official news published in East Germany about the present exodus. It comes at a time when there is speculation here that East Berlin may allow the remaining East Germans still in the West German embassy in Prague to leave for the West, provided that they return to East Germany first, but that no one else who seeks refuge in a Western embassy will be allowed to leave.

The mass circulation West German daily *Bild Zeitung* said yesterday that Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, had decided that the 35 refugees in the Prague embassy would be allowed to go but only after they had waited in East Germany longer than the niece and family of Herr Willi Stoph.

Herr Philipp Jenninger, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's state secretary responsible for relations with East Germany, was quoted as saying that theirs was the last flight via an embassy.

The East Germans probably wanted to settle the issue before yesterday's meeting between Herr Kohl and Günter Mittag, the senior East German politician responsible for economics who has been visiting Hannover.

The two men were due to meet last year, but Herr Kohl cancelled the talks after a West German died from a heart attack during questioning at an East German border checkpoint.

Herr Mittag had talks yesterday with Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the West German Economic Minister.

Meanwhile West Berliners with friends in the East reported yesterday that the East German authorities had arrested a number of people who visited the West German mission in East Berlin to inquire about emigrating.

Colonel is Guinea's President

From Susan MacDonald, Dakar

The new President of Guinea was named officially yesterday as Colonel Lansana Conté, who is thought to have led the military coup which overthrew the old regime for the late President Sékou Touré just three days after his burial.

The Prime Minister is named as Colonel Diarra Traoré and the Minister of Foreign Affairs as Captain Massin Touré. Six civilians and one woman are among the Government's list of 31 ministers and two Secretaries of State.

One Minister in the old regime has managed to retain his post. He is the Minister of Health, Dr Mohamed Kaba Bah.

It is understood that the new Minister of Energy, M. Abraham Kabaisan Ketta was only released from prison on Tuesday when the military seized power.

Allies protest at air corridor harassment

From Our Own Correspondent

West Germany is following with close concern the protests by the three Western allies over alleged Soviet harassment of passenger aircraft in the air corridors to Berlin, but fears that the Russians may be attempting to put new pressure on West Berlin appear ungrounded so far.

A British spokesman for the three allied powers, who alone are allowed to operate flights to West Berlin, has confirmed that on several occasions recently the Russians have asked Western planes to fly above the normal 10,000 ft ceiling in the three air corridors to avoid Soviet military manoeuvres.

He would not say when or how the protests were delivered, but a West Berlin newspaper said that Britain, France and the United States had summoned the Soviet ambassadors in their countries to express their "dissatisfaction" at the requests to change altitude.

The spokesman said that



there had been no danger to Western planes, nor had airlines had to alter their timetables. It has been confirmed, however, that there have been several brushes with Soviet military aircraft in the corridors.

The Russians, who have the right to fly in the corridors above East Germany, give advance notice to the safety centre of manoeuvres necessitating a change of altitude by Western planes.

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Place: North London Polytechnic

Time: 5pm

Date: Saturday, April 7, 1984

This advertisement placed by the committee for the anniversary of martyr Al Sadr

Berlin les out turn of igrants

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

Germany has given warning to its citizens who emigrate to be allowed to return. The attempt to curb the influx of refugees to the West has been left for the West at any time since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

German officials said that the existing law, which allows anyone who emigrates to be allowed to return, is being published in the West. The law is being published in the West.

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Delhi introduces detention without trial to counter Punjab violence

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The Indian Government reacted yesterday to the mounting violence in Punjab by introducing stringent measures for detention without trial under the National Security Act.

The new regulation permits the detention without trial of suspected terrorists for up to six months. Detainees do not have to be brought before a judge within that time either.

The state has already been declared a disturbed area, thereby giving police at a low level the right to open fire.

However, the round-the-clock curfew in Amritsar, which has lasted for 72 hours and dusk-to-dawn curfews in the three other main towns of Patiala, Ludhiana and Jullundur, have failed to prevent

terrorist activity from continuing. A grenade was thrown at a crowd of Hindus, injuring five seriously, including a group of visitors from the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. The five were taken to hospital in Ludhiana.

Later yesterday an autorickshaw driver was shot and he and his vehicle carried off in a lorry from a village. His attackers threw him out 40 miles away.

However, nothing in the past two days has matched the spasm of violence set off by the assassination earlier this week of two prominent Hindu politicians. Mourning crowds then clashed with the police and about a dozen people died.

At least three of them were said to have been Sikh extremists who fired at a patrol of paramilitary police reservists, and were killed when fire was returned. Two others were policemen who were lynched by an enraged mob after the force had opened fire on rioters.

Relations between the Sikh party conducting the agitation and the Government have taken a sharp turn for the worse since the moves last weekend. Then, this week's proposed series of demonstrations was abandoned after the Government said that it was prepared to consider amending article 25 of the constitution which mentions Sikhs together with Jains and Buddhists as covered by the word "Hindu".

The Minister for Home Affairs, Mr P C Sethi, has said that he is not promising to amend the constitution, merely to examine it. The Sikh extremists, inspired by the messianic fervour of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, have increased, rather than reduced their activity.

The Government is also under severe attack in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament, for its handling of the situation in Punjab. In particular the Bharatiya Janata Party, to which the assassinated politicians belonged have been highly critical.

The party's leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, told the Lok Sabha that the Government has "surrendered tamely" over Article 25, without taking the Opposition into its confidence. The Sikh violence has already begun to spill into other states. The Hindus of neighbouring Haryana have reacted violently against Sikhs in their midst following attacks on Hindus in Punjab. In Delhi, too, Sikh death squads have been active.

One man the Prince will not be meeting

From Our Foreign Staff

One islander Prince Andrew is not meeting during the course of his two-day visit to St Helena in the South Atlantic ending today is a male prisoner in the tiny island prison at Jamestown, the capital. He is serving a life sentence for the murder of a policeman two years ago.

After the rejection of his appeal in London against conviction he will be moved to Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight.

However, the island was stunned two months ago by a second case of violent deaths. Before 1981 no murder or other serious crime had occurred on St Helena since the turn of the century. Crime is otherwise unknown on this tiny volcanic outcrop 1,000 miles from the nearest landfall, 2,000 miles from the Falklands.

The St Helena police force is known affectionately as "The Toys", and its role hitherto has been largely ornamental. Later this year a more discreet visit will be made to the island by two English barristers and an itinerant judge to hear the second murder case. The victim was a young girl. Her alleged killer is recovering from self-inflicted wounds in the island hospital.

The murder trial two years ago took place in the Supreme Court in Jamestown where the police table-tennis table normally resides in front of the dock.

The witty performance of defence counsel Mr Louis Bloom-Cooper, QC, on that occasion is now enshrined in island history as the greatest entertainment since the arrival of Napoleon in 1815.

The island authorities ascribe the growth in domestic violence to the influence of Ascension Island, 800 miles to the north, where male St



Solitary confinement: Jamestown prison holds one prisoner who is serving life for murder.

Helenians, or Saints, work for months at a time on construction projects for the expanded RAF Falklands air-base garrison. Women are not allowed to work on Ascension. Jamestown, with its brilliantly painted green, red, white and cream colonial buildings, nestles in a narrow wooded

Philippines may free accused priests

From Keith Dalton
Manila

The last government witness in the multiple murder trial of three priests and six church lay workers yesterday completed his testimony and unless there is an out-of-court settlement the controversial trial will not resume for at least another ten days.

Judge Emilio Legaspi, in the central Philippines city of Bacolod, gave the prosecution until August 10 to submit evidence substantiating its charge that the nuns accused - including an Australian and an Irish missionary - were responsible for the ambush killing of a town mayor and his four aides in March, 1982.

The judge granted a further five days after the prosecution's deadline for the defence to file any motion of objection.

Once the prosecution evidence is tabled, the prosecutor will formally rest his case and then the defence will present its witnesses. Defence lawyers say they are prepared to call 127 people to prove their clients are victims of a "military frame-up".

Father Brian Gore from Australia, Father Niall O'Brien from Ireland and a Filipino priest, Father Vicente Dangan, have been detained in Bacolod's jail for more than ten weeks after spending eight months under house arrest.

Fifteen prosecution witnesses gave evidence throughout seven weeks of bail hearings last year and during the trial.

However, an out-of-court settlement could be near. A meeting on Sunday between prosecution and defence lawyers and the Deputy Minister of Justice has raised hopes that the trial might soon come to an abrupt halt with Father Gore and Father O'Brien agreeing to leave the Philippines.

Jobs to be priority for Chile's new team

From Florencia Varas
Santiago

The fight against unemployment will take precedence over strict adherence to orthodox monetarist policy as the principal goal of Chile's latest economics team, appointed on Monday by President Augusto Pinochet.

The Cabinet reshuffle suggests that the military government feels compelled to change its monetarist policies in the face of growing social pressures generated by nearly two million jobs.

It represents a break with the policies of the departing Finance Minister, Señor Carlos Cáceres, who imposed strict measures to cut fiscal spending and control inflation, according to the dictates of the International Monetary Fund.

Señor Modesto Collados, the newly-appointed Economy Minister, who held the post of Housing Minister until Monday and served as public Works Minister from 1964 to 1966 in the Christian Democratic administration of Señor Eduardo Frei, has emphasized that his primary goal will be to cut the 30 per cent unemployment rate to 4 per cent within three years.

The new Finance Minister, Señor Luis Escobar, who was Minister of the Economy from 1961 to 1963 in the right-wing government of Jorge Alessandri, has announced that Chile will cooperate more closely with the efforts of Latin American countries seeking to renegotiate their foreign debts.

Chile will meet the obligations towards payment of its \$22bn (£15bn) foreign debt, but it will also seek greater flexibility from the International Monetary Fund.

The new leadership has been received favourably by the industrial sector.

Jurists condemn 'tragedy of errors' in Sri Lanka

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Events in Sri Lanka are described as "a mounting tragedy of errors" in a report by Mr Paul Sieghart issued by the International Commission of Jurists and its British national section, Justice.

Mr Sieghart, chairman of the Justice executive committee, had "frank discussions" with President Jayewardene, ministers and other leading figures, including the Chief Justice. His conclusion is that ethnic tensions have led to "a steadily deteriorating situation which threatens Sri Lanka's traditions of tolerance and respect for human rights".

The report says that emergency regulation 15A (permitting secret burial without an

inquest of people who die in custody) is a "dangerous and obnoxious measure which should be revoked immediately".

Also, there must be full, independent judicial inquiries into last year's disturbances, in particular the massacres in Melikada prison. There should also be sustained government support for "education for tolerance".

● BERNE: Nearly 1,000 Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka staged a protest before the Swiss Parliament yesterday and handed in a petition demanding they be granted asylum in Switzerland. Only one of them has so far been granted asylum (AP reports).

Solidarity trial postponed

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

A Polish court decided yesterday to postpone indefinitely the trial of two seriously ill Solidarity activists, Miss Anna Walentynowicz and Mr Kazimierz Switon. The judge will decide today when and whether a third dissident, Miss Ewa Tomaszewska, should face trial.

A medical expert who examined the human rights campaigners on Wednesday, told the court in Katowice that Miss Walentynowicz should be transferred from prison to the Warsaw Oncological Institute for treatment of cancer.

He said her trial on charges of organizing a demonstration and resisting arrest, should be made dependant on the development of her disease and the speed of her recovery. Mr Switon should not be put on trial for at least two months because of his illness, the doctor advised. Mr Switon, who has campaigned for free trades unions in Silesia for many years, is believed to be suffering from a cancer-like disease and stomach disorders.

The third defendant, Miss Ewa Tomaszewska, was completely disorientated by her surroundings, suffering from a combination of high fever and diabetes, the doctor said. Her trial is also likely to be postponed, though perhaps for a shorter or at least more tightly defined period.

The three dissidents took part in a demonstration outside the Wujek colliery in Silesia last December when they wanted to lay a plaque commemorating the miners shot and killed by police after the declaration of martial law in the winter of 1981.

Their trial would have been clarification of the somewhat clouded policy of the authorities now. Although the police have stepped up their arrests of political offenders (there are 430 in prison) not many are being brought to trial. Mr Switon and Miss Walentynowicz would have been the best known activists to be tried for more than a year.

Corruption trials worry Nigerians

From Kenneth Mackenzie
Lagos

Disquiet is growing in Nigeria over the terms of the decree under which military tribunals are being set up to try members of the former civilian government on corruption charges.

More than 470 former politicians are being held in prisons; they were swept from power when the military overthrew the Government on December 31. Members of the tribunals were sworn in this week, and trials in five Nigerian cities are expected to start next week.

Reasons for disquiet are: a minimum sentence of 21 years imprisonment for those convicted; no appeal; and a judge who will sit with senior officers on a tribunal only to offer advice on legal points; the military men will make all decisions.

The Nigerian Bar Association this week delivered a protest - particularly on the last point - to the military authorities, but received no satisfaction.

The maximum sentence the tribunals can impose is life imprisonment. The military authorities have rejected calls for death sentences, a large section of Nigerian public opinion wants severe punishments for the former politicians.

All the findings and sentences have to be reviewed by the Supreme Military Council, and it can alter sentences. This might alleviate the apparent harshness of the 21-year minimum.

The decree does not state that the trials must be held in public, but they are expected to be. There have been rumours that they will be in secret - presumably because some of the accused may try to defend themselves by making counter-allegations of corruption against the military - but informed sources discount these rumours.

It is not known whether former President Alhaji Shehu Shagari will play any part in the trials, but the former Vice-President, Dr Alex Ekwueme, is expected to be among the accused.

Air chief to lead armed forces in Honduras

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) - The Honduran Air Force Chief, General Walter Lopez, was appointed commander of the armed forces yesterday, a day after his predecessor said General Lopez had ousted him.

The appointment was overwhelmingly approved by Congress but General Lopez will not take over formally until he is sworn in at a date still to be announced.

The former armed forces chief, General Gustavo Alvarez Marin, said in Costa Rica on Wednesday that General Lopez had ordered his arrest and forced him to leave the country on Saturday.

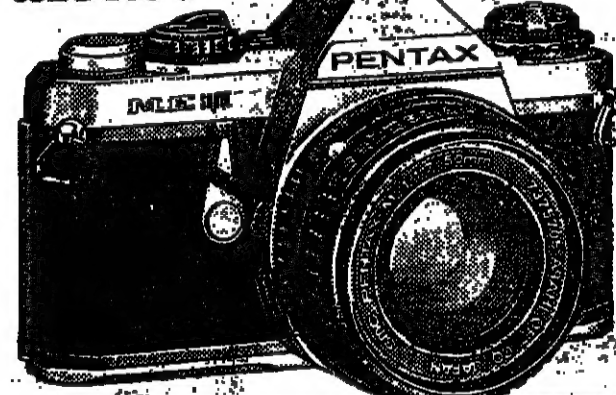
General Lopez was the only general to survive a big shake-up in the Honduran military announced by President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

General Lopez, aged 43, received most of his military training in the United States and has been described as highly popular within the armed forces.

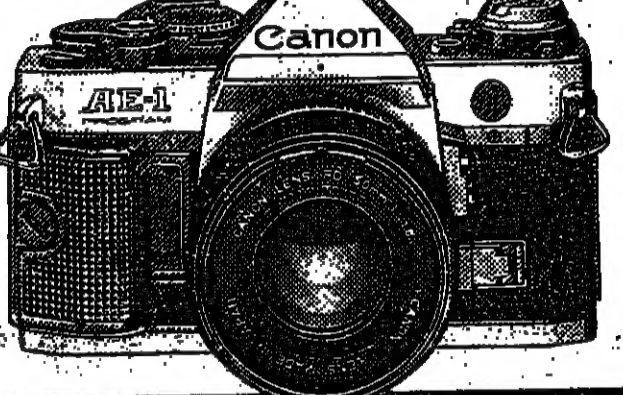
Meanwhile, Honduras has told the United States that their joint military exercises in Central America will continue despite the shake-up.

President Suazo Cordova: Military shake-up

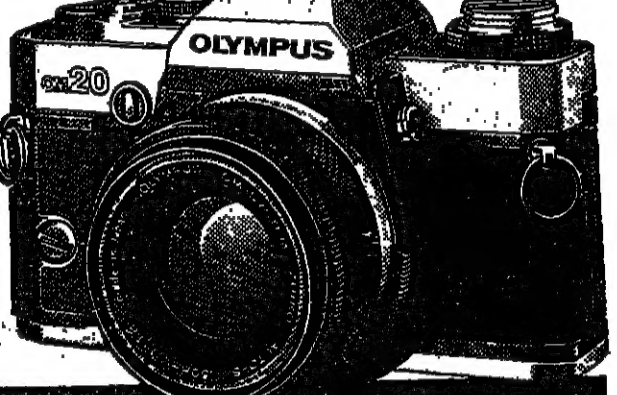
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The Commons investigation on Grenada

Reagan deliberately kept 'lethargic' Howe in dark over invasion

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A parliamentary investigation into the invasion of Grenada last October by the United States and several Caribbean states concluded yesterday that President Reagan deliberately kept Britain in the dark about his intentions, and it criticized Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, for the Government's "lethargic" approach during the crucial weekend before the invasion on Tuesday, October 25.

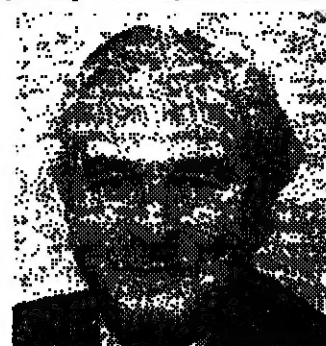
The Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, which pieced together a detailed and authoritative account of the events preceding the invasion, concluded on evidence from many of the direct participants that it was not the intention of the United States Government that the United Kingdom should be involved in the military intervention "and that the timing, nature and extent of the information provided to the United Kingdom Government by the United States were consistent with that position".

The committee, whose members visited the Eastern Caribbean during the inquiry and interviewed Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General of Grenada, the Prime Ministers of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago and American and British diplomatic staff, passed no judgment on the merits of the invasion itself or of Britain's non-involvement.

It remarked on a feeling of regret in the area that Britain had not taken part but saw little sign of outright anti-British sentiment, and concluded that Britain's non-participation had avoided serious repercussions on British relations with the majority of other Commonwealth states.

But the report criticized the Government for having insufficiently attuned to the political feelings of Commonwealth states, and says that the evidence given to it by the Foreign Secretary "paints a picture of a British administration reacting passively to the events entirely on the advice received from Washington, which in the event proved to be unreliable advice."

It suggests that the Americans, having been made aware the previous Friday of Britain's doubts about military action, "adjusted" the information given to this country about its intentions accordingly, and that



Grenada spotlight: Mr Peter Thomas (top); the late Maurice Bishop (centre); and Sir Paul Scoon

the State Department officials with whom Britain regularly consulted were not themselves in possession of all the facts. Mr Peter Thomas, Conservative MP for Hendon South, leader of the committee team on its Caribbean visit, told a Westminster press conference that the White House realized that if the invasion was to be successful it had to be done very quickly and as secretly as possible. It realized there was a possibility "that if Britain had been taken into full consultation Britain would have argued against it."

Another committee member, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, remarked: "It was an extraordinary way to treat an old and trusted ally."

According to the committee's timetable the Organization of East Caribbean States decided on Friday October 21 to ask for assistance in putting together a multinational force. Britain was told by Mr Tom Adams, Barbadian Prime Minister, of his wish that his country would contribute but a formal request was never received. On Saturday, October 22, President Reagan signed orders to prepare for United States participation.

Visited by the British Deputy High Commissioner in Barbados on the Sunday, Sir Paul Scoon did not ask for help. As was clear from Sir Geoffrey's Commons statement on October 24 that he had no reason to think American intervention was likely, consultations were conducted during the weekend on the understanding that the United States was proceeding "very cautiously".

The committee concluded that given the lack of information from its usual State Department channels, the assurance of consultation before action from Washington, the Deputy High Commissioner's interview with Sir Paul Scoon, Sir Geoffrey's statement on October 24 appeared to have reflected the information then available to the Government and their assessment of the signals which had so far reached London of Mr Reagan's intentions.

However, despite being aware of the OECS decision to launch an invasion and of Mr Adams's request at no point during that weekend did the Government appear to have taken an initiative to ascertain the full intentions of Caribbean leaders or to dissuade them.

The Foreign Secretary's statement to the committee that there was a hesitation to embark on telephone calls on an open line to the Caribbean and that the Government had relied on normal diplomatic channels to convey its point of view was a "somewhat lethargic approach".

House of Commons: 2nd report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 1983-84: Stationery Office, £8.40.

Leading article, page 13

Petra Kelly a victim of her own magnetism

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn

Her main problem, and one that increasingly led to tension with her parliamentary colleagues, was that she had become too well known. Not only in West Germany but throughout the world the frail, vivacious, charismatic figure of Frau Petra Kelly was the symbol of the Greens.

But the days of power and publicity for this 36-year-old anti-nuclear crusader, who once dreamed of becoming a Dominican nun, now appear to be over. She has been swept away from the leadership of the party she helped to found, replaced by other women who may be as strong in advancing the Green cause but who do not have the magnetism that focused the world's cameras on Petra Kelly.

Her other problem was her zeal. She demanded of herself what she did of society: the impossible. By working for months on end before the elections last year for up to 20 hours a day, leaving only three hours for sleep and virtually no time for any private life, she exhausted a body that was never strong and suffered from circulatory problems.

This was reflected in her mental weariness with the party, her disillusionment that became increasingly evident after a year in the Bundestag. The defection of her close friend and colleague, General Gert Bastian, shook her, but the Green cause was too close for her to contemplate following him.

Petra Kelly's missionary determination to change Western society, industry and defence stems from her having frequently been a stranger to that society and having to battle against adversity. Born in 1947 in Ginzburg, West Germany, of a Polish father and a German mother, Petra



Impossible demands: Petra Kelly, voted out by the Greens (Photograph: Peter Dunne).

Lehmann moved to America at the age of 13, when her divorced mother remarried an Irish-American army officer, whose surname she adopted.

In West Germany she had been brought up in a convent, a Protestant girl in a disciplined, hard-working Roman Catholic surroundings. In Washington she became active in protests against the Vietnam war, in civil rights and in the heady, idealistic politics of the 1960s.

She was much influenced by Joan Baez and Martin Luther King, and by the principles of non-violent resistance, which has remained her guiding philosophy. She spent two years in the office of Hubert Humphrey, and founded a student group to support Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign.

After gaining a master's degree in Europe she moved to Brussels to work in the European Commission. There she learnt the meaning of discrimination against women and stultifying bureaucracy which reinforced her hatred of the impersonal machine "that destroys people's souls".

Inspired to join the West German Social Democratic Party by what she saw as the

idealism of Herr Willy Brandt, she left in disgust at the hard-headed pragmatism of his successors. Even now her relations with the Social Democrats are prickly. She passionately denounced Herr Brandt after he had appeared on the platform with her at the big anti-missile rally last November, because he would not commit himself to total opposition to Nato and defence spending.

She joined the Greens to promote causes, not to make parliamentary politics, in which she still has a deep distrust. She is a radical, but something of a romantic who is more at home in inspiring citizens' initiatives, publicizing causes with eye-catching techniques she learnt in America and haranguing her opponents than she is at disciplining herself, her thoughts and her opinions in the interests of party organization and effectiveness.

Her public protests in East Berlin, for which she was deported, her outspoken criticisms of her colleagues and her impetuosity did not make for easy collaboration in the party faction.

Petra Kelly was one of the

West German peace movement's most passionate advocates. She travelled all over the country to rally the opposition to the Nato missiles. She drew up the so-called Krefeld Appeal in 1980 which gathered two million signatures against deployment.

The party's moment of triumph, its election to Parliament, was also a moment of disillusion for Petra Kelly. She does not believe the Greens can exist in the Bundestag without making the compromises which she fears will eventually alienate them from the issues and their principles.

She is, as the Social Democratic Party manager justly but unkindly described her, "neurotically hectic". Her image is that of the protester, the small voice of humanity (accompanied as usual by her devoted 78-year-old grandmother), standing up against the machinations of big business, big politics, big states.

She looked striking on that first day in Parliament, sitting three seats along from Chancellor Helmut Kohl. But she wished, as she said later, that she were somewhere else, miles away.

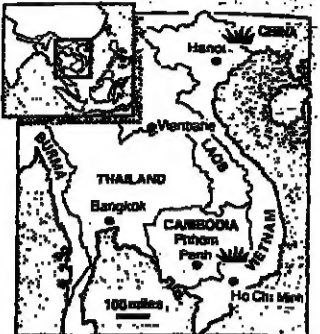
Vietnamese accuse China and Thailand

Bangkok (Reuters) - Vietnam, under threat from Chinese artillery in the north and struggling to crush Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Kampuchea, has accused Bangkok and Peking of collusion to save the guerrillas.

Hanoi said that Chinese shelling of Vietnam's northern provinces on Monday, while some of its troops were tied down fighting the guerrillas on the Thai-Kampuchean border, was "clearly a calculated act aimed at putting pressure on Vietnam from two sides".

A Foreign Ministry statement quoted by the Vietnamese news agency said that Vietnamese troops on the China-Vietnam border were in a state of high alert.

Thai border troops were reported yesterday to be continuing to mop up remnants of 300 to 500 Vietnamese troops



which, Bangkok said, intruded up to three miles into Thailand 13 days ago.

Mr Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister, said on Wednesday that despite Hanoi's denial of the incursion the bodies of scores of Vietnamese soldiers and the remains of two Vietnamese tanks had been found on Thai territory.

Thailand protested to the United Nations yesterday over the March 25 Vietnamese thrust which, it said, involved an attack on a UN-aided refugee camp in Kampuchea.

The protest, published by the Foreign Ministry, said that Hanoi troops attacked "innocent Kampuchean women, children and old people" at a camp built with UN assistance in Kampuchea.

It said that Thailand "considered such indiscriminate attacks against Kampuchean civilian encampments... crimes against humanity".

The note said that many of the 230,000 Kampuchean along the border would flee into Thai territory if they came under Vietnamese attack and suggested extra funds might be needed to provide basic relief aid.

Indonesia recalls envoy from Port Moresby

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

The Indonesian defence attaché in Port Moresby has been recalled after the incursion last week by two Indonesian aircraft into Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea had threatened to expel the attaché, but Mr Imam Soepomo, the Indonesian Ambassador, said that the attaché would leave shortly.

Earlier Papua New Guinea said it had not received a direct explanation of all the matters it

had raised in a diplomatic protest note over the incident.

Australian Associated Press said in a report from Jakarta, that Indonesia denied to Port Moresby that two of its jets had violated Papua New Guinea air space.

The border between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia has been a source of irritation for some time with reports of Indonesian troops crossing into Papua New Guinea in pursuit

of the OPM (Free West Papua Movement) guerrillas.

In the latest incident two aircraft overflew the border post at Green River about 10 miles inside Papua New Guinea on March 27.

In an unrelated incident involving the OPM, Mr Michael Somare, the Papua Prime Minister, has said that he would not allow a ransom for the release of a Swiss pilot who is a hostage of the Irian Jaya

rebels to be handed over on Papua New Guinea soil.

Mr Werner Wyder, a Roman Catholic mission pilot, and an Irian Jaya teacher were captured by OPM guerrillas at an Indonesian border post on March 26.

Papua New Guinea has been placed in an awkward position by the kidnapping as it does not recognize the OPM and is anxious not to see relations with Jakarta deteriorate.

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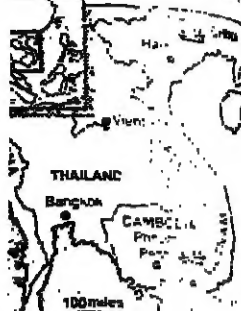
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NGAPORE

THEY BELIEVE IN FREE SPEECH. BUT NOT FAIR HEARINGS.



"The Probation Service is not a part of local government and certainly has not been taken into consideration on the abolition question. Yet if the proposals go ahead we are clearly going to suffer gratuitous harm and cost for no ostensible benefit whatever."
(ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF OFFICERS OF PROBATION)

"The prospect of individual Councils preparing structure plans... is appalling."
(HOUSE BUILDERS FEDERATION)

"A recipe for delay, indecision, confusion and waste... the measures which the Government wishes to introduce will make matters worse not better."
(TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ASSOCIATION)

"The improvements (under the metropolitan county councils) have been dramatic... with great improvements in performance and standards... naive to think that authorities of widely different political outlook will work together."
(INSTITUTE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT)

Since publishing its proposals for the abolition of the metropolitan county councils, the Government has received literally thousands of responses. From industry and commerce, professional and academic institutions, the Church, voluntary organisations and numerous individuals.

The majority are highly critical, in part or in whole, of the Government's plans.

Many have demanded that at the very least an inquiry should be held, before such an important constitutional change is enacted.

But the protests, however significant, are falling on deaf ears.

It seems the Government's mind is made up, and that it is determined to get its Bill through Parliament with as little public debate as possible.

BEWARE CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATES.

The 1983 White Paper 'Streamlining the Cities' is the blueprint for abolition. Its architect is Mr. Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary.

Its main platform was that metropolitan county councils were wasteful, unnecessary and should be abolished.

And although Mr. Jenkin originally estimated that savings of up to £120 million a year could be made, no concrete facts or figures to support the claim were produced.

This vagueness was fortuitous for the Environment Secretary, particularly in the light of two damning analyses of the Government's abolition proposals by Coopers and Lybrand Associates, a top independent management and financial consultancy.

They drew the conclusion that "There are unlikely to be any net savings as a result of the Government's proposed changes, and there could be significant extra costs... up to £61 million pounds a year."

Now, Mr. Jenkin has changed his tune, by saying: "Expenditure issues are not central to the case for abolition."

SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT.

Against this conflict between Government claims and independent assessment, voices of disquiet are being raised higher and higher.

The scale of concern is demonstrated by the wide cross section of respondents to the White Paper. Including the Probation Service, the Countryside Commission, Chambers of Commerce, the Civic Trust, the Arts Council, the National Union of Ratepayers and the Law Society.

"The proposals in the White Paper are ill thought out, uncosted and unworkable. If implemented they would quickly lead to a chaotic fragmentation of services, with corresponding reduction in quality."
(UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS)

"...in the White Paper neither the case for reorganisation nor the merits of the particular proposals put forward are adequately substantiated. Indeed, by any objective judgement, the White Paper falls short of the standards to be expected of a document intended to stimulate and inform public debate on the constitutional, administrative and economic implications of a major change in the structure of Government as it operates in the main cities."
(SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED URBAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL)

"The service hopes that the impressive progress in the field of consumer protection made by the Metropolitan Counties is not lost, but developed."
(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAUX)

"Our support for the proposed abolition is given on the assumption that it will lead to substantial savings."
(CBI)

"We argue that the proposed structure will lead to less effective management than at present, and will lead to higher rather than lower costs... we have no doubt that efficiency will suffer."
(THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTANCY)

"Before any fundamental alterations are embarked upon, evidence should be produced to show that these hopes (savings and better value for money) have every chance of being realised in the future. The onus is on the Government to prove that its re-organisation plans will give... ratepayers a better deal."
(NATIONAL UNION OF RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS)

Concern is growing in all quarters that re-organisation will lead to a reduction in the level and quality of services.

That costs will escalate dramatically. And that direct responsibility to the electorate for countywide services will be all but eliminated.

Analysis of the Government's plans show these fears to be well founded.

But what may not be so well known, is the willingness of the metropolitan county councils to participate in any full and independent review of local government structure and finance.

The metropolitan county councils have never claimed that the present system is perfect, or that it should be above change. However, they have always sought to provide the greatest possible benefits to the 11 million people they serve.

Which is why an inquiry is essential; before the Government embarks upon a hasty and costly upheaval of local government.

A view also held by a great many other people.

Unfortunately, it appears that this Government believes people should be seen, but not heard.

ISSUED BY THE METROPOLITAN COUNTY COUNCILS OF GREATER MANCHESTER, MERSEYSIDE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, TYNE AND WEAR, WEST MIDLANDS AND WEST YORKSHIRE.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GMC, COUNTY HALL, MANCHESTER M60 3HR

SPECTRUM

Anthony West grew up in the withering glare of the malice of Rebecca West, the mother who spent her lifetime punishing him for the fact that his father steadfastly refused to marry her

A heritage of burning hate

The truth of how things were between my mother and myself was that from the time that I reached the age of puberty, and she came to the point of a final rupture with my father, she was minded to do me what hurt she could, and that she remained set in that determination as long as there was breath in her body to sustain her malice. When I wrote my novel, *Heritage*, 35 years ago I was angry with her. I had



My mother married money not long after my adoption went through, and within a year or so of that happy event she felt called upon to inform my father that he need trouble himself no more to provide for me in his will as her husband, Henry Andrews, was making me his heir. My father later asked me if I knew anything of this, and with a certain complacency I told him that I did, and that he

wasn't to worry about me. Henry was really rich, and as I understood it I was to come into the bulk of his estate when he died. My father looked at me quizzically for an instant after I had said this, and then let the matter drop, observing that if it were really so I ought to be all right. I recalled his words, and the expression that had been on his face when he uttered them, some years later while I was listening to the reading of his will. Under it I was given the right to take such personal souvenirs of him as I might fancy from the contents of his house, and nothing else. This was not, the document went on to say, because he had anything against me, but because he understood that, unlike his other children, I had substantial expectations from another quarter. When I heard that explanation a flash of intuition informed me that my designation as my stepfather's heir had been functional, and that I was not likely to enjoy that status for much longer now that its function had been fulfilled. My insight was confirmed three years later in the course of a melodramatic scene that was enacted on the front steps of my home in Dorset. Its pretext was an advertisement that had appeared in the two "quality" Sundays on the previous day, in which the publishers of my first novel had announced its forthcoming appearance as one of the titles on their autumn list. Each of the dozen books featured in the advertisement was given the briefest of brief descriptions followed by a snippet of background information about the writer. Of me it



was said that I had promise, and that I had begun work on a biography of my father, H. G. Wells. On the morning after this atrocity had run on the book pages of the two papers concerned, my stepfather, having proclaimed his coming, drove over from his home near High Wycombe in his Rolls-Royce to bring me an ultimatum. He wouldn't come into the house, he explained when he had arrived, because he didn't want to impose himself on me as a guest until he had let me know what he had come to say. It was consequently from a point about half-way up the front steps that he let me have it.

He was extremely angry with me for having been so thoughtlessly cruel as to allow my publishers to exploit the dormant scandal of my mother's connexion with my father. Its revival had given my mother unimaginable distress. He was prepared to go to any lengths to spare her a repetition of what she had been through in the previous 24 hours. He wanted me to understand that unless I was willing to give him my solemn undertaking never to lend myself to the commercial exploitation of this most private of private matters again he would have to think seriously of changing his will. He reminded me that a considerable sum of money was involved, and begged me to do what he asked. I was taken aback by his proposition, and could only tell him that I couldn't possibly do or say anything that might seem to suggest that I had any reason to be ashamed of being the child of either one of my parents. Henry then turned to my wife, Katherine Church, who was standing beside me, to say, with what affected to be a rueful smile, that he deplored my attitude. He hoped, he added, that she would become his ally in the task of persuading me to modify it; it might make it easier for her to do so if she were to consider what the ultimate consequences of my obduracy would necessarily be - the interest that our two children had in his estate as things were would be extinguished along with mine should my conduct force him to change his will.

Kitty's response to this was to say "Well really, Henry!" and to go indoors, turning her back on him. My stepfather lengthened his normally long face considerably, gestured as if to indicate his helplessness in the face of so evident a case of *folie à deux*, told me that he would give me a week to think the matter over, reminded me of the sum that was at risk, and departed. He presently did what he had threatened to do, and that was the end of my expectations.

I was given an even clearer idea of the extent of my mother's passionate desire to do me harm a little while later when I had foolishly involved myself in a sufficiently banal marital difficulty. I fell very hard for a young woman who was as nice as could be, and extremely attractive to me, but who was, literally, a passing stranger. I made a heavy over-investment of emotion in what should never have been more than an episode, and was soon in a fair way to upsetting my apple cart. My mother gave me every assistance in overturning it.



Anthony West in 1916 with his mother (top left) and caricatured (top right). Above, Dame Rebecca with her husband, Henry, in 1959

As soon as she became aware that my marriage was going through a rough passage, she summoned my wife to London for a luncheon conference, naming the extremely pleasant, sumptuous and quiet eating room at the Green Park end of the Ritz as their meeting place. When she got there Kitty was surprised to find that my stepfather was one of the party. She was even more surprised when my mother, after commiserating with her briefly, launched into a presentation of the case for an immediate divorce which had the form of a denunciation of myself and all my works. My mother had, it seemed, been living in dread of the very thing that was happening ever since our marriage. She had never thought that it could last. She had always known that I was utterly irresponsible and - yes - unstable. There was an unaccountable streak of something base in my make up that had made me curiously unreliable even as a child. When it came to a divorce Kitty would have to put herself in the hands of someone really good; if there was the slightest vagueness in the terms of the final settlement she would live to regret it. I was shy about money matters, and could be relied on to get at her through the children if I was given any loophole that would allow me to do so...

At that point Kitty objected that it was early days to be talking about divorce. She was far from sure that it need come to that. As she understood things it was common enough for both men and women who had married young to be overtaken by feelings of sexual restlessness when they felt their middle years closing in on them. She could see that there might be dangers for her in what was happening, but she still felt that far too much was being made of something that was, in her opinion, most unlikely to be the big thing that I was making out of it. She didn't think that there was any chance that it would last. My mother responded to this by exploding with rage. She began by telling Kitty that she was the biggest fool she had ever tried to help out of an appalling situation. I was an utter rotter, and she was an idiot to let me trample all over her. She raised her voice as she launched into a lengthy indictment of my past and present performances.

As she ranted on, conversation ceased at most of the other tables in the room, and the waiters gave up the pretence of attending to their duties in favour of standing and staring. Kitty is at a loss to explain how the two men

concerted their action, but the scene came to an abrupt end when my stepfather and the Head Waiter, moving together as if they had rehearsed the procedure a dozen times, each took my mother by an arm close to the elbow, plucked her up out of her seat, and carried her from the room, dangling between them. She continued her vilification of her daughter-in-law and myself until the doors of the room closed behind her.

It would be pleasant if I could say that this episode had relieved my mother's feeling and had required no sequel, but that would not be true. The fact is that my mother was never able to forgive Kitty for being generous and understanding where I was concerned and that the interrupted tirade that was broken off in the Ritz on that memorable occasion was destined to be taken up again, and again, at irregular intervals through the remainder of her life. Each new turn in the melancholy history of my deteriorating relationship with her brought Kitty its fall-out in the form of yet another batch of letters taking up the theme of my vileness and aimed without disguise at extinguishing the last remnants of any residual affection she might have for me. Close to 130 of these letters survive.

The majority are old fashioned letters of the kind that people used to write. They are written on both sides of as many as six sheets of paper, and their texts can run to better than 500 words to a side. Some of them contain more than 6,000 words. Of the archive as a whole my ex-wife says that it constitutes a fascinating involuntary self-portrait of someone who was treacherous and dishonest, and whose leading passions were money, malice, and meddling. I can agree with that, but for me the pitiful and extraordinary thing about it is that it is typical.

There are at least a dozen similar archives in various hands in England and America, and there may be several more. They show the same delight in disseminating spiteful slanders and untruths, and their substance consists of releases of hostility and aggression aimed at specific *bêtes noires* on a private hit list. One of these collections yields a remarkably complete picture of who my mother's hates were and contains a more than adequate explanation for the strength of my feelings.

Taken from the introduction to *Anthony West's novel Heritage*, to be published by Secker and Warburg on April 9 price, £8.95. © Anthony West, 1984

moreover... Miles Kington

"My goodness, sir!" said Lieutenant Harry Rutland. "Just look at all those ships!" Harry Rutland had been in the Royal Navy for five years, so of course he wasn't used to seeing a lot of ships. What he was looking at now was the Soviet Navy. It covered the sea from horizon to horizon, each ship carrying a proud red flag with the hammer and sickle painted out. They were travelling incognito.

"Keep an eye on the Russians while I go below", said the Captain, "and be careful with the binoculars. If they go overboard, we have to buy a new pair out of our own money."

Yes, defence cuts were beginning to work. "But what if something should happen, sir?"

"Don't worry", said the Captain. "We'll know soon enough. We have our own mole, right in the heart of the Soviet Navy."

It was true. The British had planted an agent on the biggest and best of the Russian ships, the People's Destroyer *Andropov*. (Until six months ago she had been called the *Brechner* and before that - well, never mind). Basil Kutov had been recruited by the British ten years previously, when he first joined the Russian Navy, and now he had worked his way up until he had become naval chaplain. His post was not very onerous. All he had to do was to chat to the men, persuade them not to pray, take away their religious knick-knacks, that sort of thing.

"Morning, Rev", said a rating. "Morning", said Basil. Rev was short for revolutionary chaplain, though what on earth they would do if they ever found out how unrevolutionary he was, heaven knew. So did Basil, actually. They would shoot him.

Especially if they knew that he had discovered the secret of the *Andropov*. To all intents and purposes it was an ordinary super-warship, with nuclear missiles, electronic spying equipment and a damn good vodka doubles bar. But Basil had discovered a secret area amidships, off-limits to most of the crew, which had a very different function. It was full of nets, lines and huge freezers.

The *Andropov* wasn't a destroyer at all. The guns were a disguise. It was really a trawler! Yes, the Russians were entering the North Sea not for naval exercises but to clean up the whole stock of fish there!

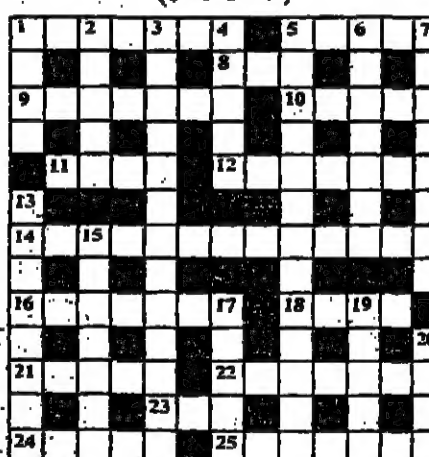
Now Basil was paying one last visit to the trawling area before he radioed his vital news to London. He bent down and picked up a corner of net - then gasped. Underneath lay a huge pipeline! But you didn't fish with pipelines, did you?

"Yes, it's a pipeline", said a voice behind him. It was the Captain. "Oh, it's all right, Basil. We know all about you and your friends in London. We're quite happy for them to think we're a trawler."

"Then - what are we?" said Basil. "We're an oil supply ship. The reason we keep coming to the North Sea is to steal the oil - we put out huge submarines which tap the oil rig pipes below the surface. Most of Britain's oil will never get on shore. And now, I'm afraid, will you, OK, men."

Next episode: Basil's life is saved by his bullet-proof Bible.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 311)



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|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Bone vault (7) | 1 Boat propellers (4) |
| 5 Lawn plant (5) | 2 Normal chaos (5) |
| 8 Wingle structure (3) | 3 Swallows and (6,7) |
| 9 US estate agent (7) | 4 Soft spars (5) |
| 10 Piece of information (5) | 5 Biblical pigs (8,5) |
| 11 African warrior (4) | 6 Try (7) |
| 12 Rough cider (7) | 7 Curly-tailed (8) |
| 14 Drunkenness (8) | 13 Assumption (8) |
| 16 Mark hundredth (7) | 15 Ship's water (7) |
| 18 Deep breath (4) | 17 Huge (5) |
| 21 Rocky Mountain state (5) | 19 Secreting organ (5) |
| 22 Give life to (7) | 20 True (4) |
| 23 Adult males (3) | |
| 24 Poke gently (5) | |
| 25 Week's third day (7) | |

SOLUTION TO No 310
ACROSS: 1 Punter 5 Blyss 8 Eve 9 Sprout
10 Spoil 11 Fret 12 Ramquin 14 Bouillabaise
17 Hedgehog 19 Kite 21 Mayhem 23 Italic
24 Asx 25 Slogan 26 Middle
DOWN: 2 Upper 3 Near thing 4 Tendril
5 Boom 6 Loo 7 Willard 13 Quicksand
15 Overall 16 Baptism 18 Human 20 Trill
22 Hog

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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FRIDAY PAGE

Trapped on all sides

Budget tax changes put about two pounds more in pay packets, but the effect of this on the poor in Britain is not so clear cut. Sarah Hogg disentangles the argument between the Chancellor and his critics

The Budget tax cuts are coming into effect, adding about £2 a week to average take-home pay. But a bitter argument has broken out about the effect of the Chancellor's chosen tax strategy on Britain's poorest families.

According to Nigel Lawson, the 12% increase in basic personal tax allowances was the best strategic use of government money, because "low tax thresholds worsen the poverty and unemployment traps, so that there is little if any incentive to find a better job or even any job at all."

The poverty lobby is profoundly disorganised. There are now pressing hard for real increases in child benefit, arguing that this is the most cost-effective way of reducing poverty.

The Government will not announce its benefit decisions until June. The argument is bedevilled with so many misunderstandings that it is worth starting with a few basics.

● Poverty is not the same thing as "the poverty trap". Well-meaning attempts to reduce poverty by increasing the range of means-tested benefits available to poor families, such as the family income supplement, have actually helped to deepen the "traps".

● The "poverty trap" is caused by the overlap of such means-tested benefits and the tax system, which make it hard for the low-paid to earn their way to a higher standard of living. For example, family income supplement (FIS) is reduced by 50p for every £1 by which the family's income rises, over quite a wide range of income. The ceiling for FIS is £82.50 for a one-child family, rising to £123.50 for a family with five children. At these income levels, families are - even after the Budget - way into the tax net. So each extra pound earned is further reduced by 30p taken off in tax and 20p in national insurance. Together with FIS, this makes for a "marginal tax rate" on the poor of 89p in the pound. And the problem is compounded by other means-tested benefits such as housing benefit and free school meals.

● The "unemployment trap" is different. It arises from the mix of benefits in cash and kind, based on supplementary benefit, available to people who are out of work, which may make it more worthwhile to stay on the dole than to find a low-paid job. A typical irony of the benefits system is that while the family income supplement helps to deepen the poverty trap, it simultaneously helps to reduce the unemployment trap. Since it is paid only to family breadwinners in work, it helps to make up for the loss of supplementary benefit. And it brings automatic entitlement to other benefits, such as free school meals.

However, there are important similarities between the two "traps". The first is that they are deepest for large families. This is because such families are eligible for bigger benefits, while the breadwinner's take-home pay is totally unaffected by the number of children he has. It is also harder for both parents to work full-time if there are a lot of children - and the benefit system works against part-time working wives.

The second similarity is that both traps are deeper in theory than in real life. This is because most benefits are not automatically withdrawn when the family breadwinner secures a pay rise; FIS orders, for example, run for a full year. By the time they come up for renewal, the income limits for the scheme will probably have been increased. Nor do families claim all the benefits to which they are entitled: successive surveys have shown, for example, that only half of those eligible for FIS actually receive it. And even if they do their sums correctly, surveys suggest that pay increases are rarely turned down because they might result in a cut in benefits.

Among the unemployed, surveys suggest it is family men who are most active in trying to find a new job. Yet they are the ones who face



The Poverty Trap

Peter and Pat Baker have five children, ranging from a 10-year-old to a four-month-old baby, Karen. They recently moved to a four-bedroom council house in Brighton.

Peter is a postman, working a six-day, 43-hour week. His basic pay is about £90 a week gross, leaving him £68 after tax and national insurance. But bonuses

and shift allowances boost his gross pay to over £120 a week, plus occasional overtime. This has put him just out of range of family income supplement, which would make him eligible for free school meals. He has a little less, he might well find himself a good deal better off.

The Bakers do receive some housing benefit, which reduces their rent by about £15 a week, to £20.50. And Mrs Baker gets £32.50 a week in child benefit. But their weekly food bill comes to £30 or £40, and Pat saves the child benefit for the children's clothes. The Bakers grow and freeze their own vegetables on their allotment, but they find it increasingly hard to balance the books.

Barry Mack has been unemployed since 1982. He used to drive coal delivery lorries for a weekly take-home wage of £48. Now he gets £24.10 in supplementary benefit and the family's rent, electricity and gas are all paid by social security. In addition, Barry's wife Pauline, receives £32.50 in child benefit.



The Unemployment Trap

The Macks and their five children live in a three-bedroom house of a large Brighton council estate. Clothes and shoes are a major expense, and the Macks can't afford to carpet the upstairs rooms (though the council does pay for decorating two rooms a year). The last time they went out for the evening was about ten years ago, to see a Cliff

Richard film. But the Macks reckon they would be even worse off if Barry was in work. They might lose free school meals for their children, milk tokens for the youngest two and have to pay for much more themselves. "I am not saying I'm not better off on the dole," said Barry. But I do get cheesed off. They have taken away the incentive."

million out of tax altogether. The trouble is that they were not all the people suffering worst from the "benefit traps". And even though the restricted big increases - 12% - paid to all families. But such reductions have to be combined with real increases in child benefit - otherwise the net result is greater hardship for poor families. And increases in child benefit for all are expensive.

● Reducing the tax burden on poor families. This is the Chancellor's preferred route. The trouble is that the choices here, too, are expensive. Reducing the basic rate of tax may have most impact on the "marginal tax rate" for the poor, but it gives very little cash benefit for those who only pay tax on a small proportion of their income. Hence Mr Lawson's choice of an increase in personal allowances, taking nearly half a

million out of tax altogether. The trouble is that they were not all the people suffering worst from the "benefit traps". And even though the restricted big increases - 12% - paid to all families. But such reductions have to be combined with real increases in child benefit - otherwise the net result is greater hardship for poor families. And increases in child benefit for all are expensive.

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ripples right up through the tax structure; the higher your top rate of tax, the more you stand to gain.

Child benefit gives the same to all families of similar size: it is therefore a much more cost-effective way of helping poor families. It is still not a very precise way of concentrating help.

Not all families are poor; and not all poor people have children. (Only 15% of the unemployed, according to the Chancellor, have children of child benefit age.) But official statistics do suggest poverty is increasingly concentrated among young families.

Last December, the Treasury produced figures showing that a 1p cut in income tax would yield only 35p a week to a two-child family living on half average earnings (about £80). The same sum spent raising tax thresholds would provide an extra 92p a week, or about £1.50 if the increases were concentrated on the two basic allowances, as the Chancellor chose to do. The same sum spent on child benefit would provide an extra £3.90.

If child benefit is the best way to tackle poverty, it is also the best way to fill in the two "traps". Unless it is raised enough to allow means-tested benefits to be cut, it does not reduce high "marginal tax rates" on the poor. Raising tax thresholds does narrow the range of income over which these apply.

There are some possible compromises between the two approaches. For example, child benefit would be a much more cost-effective weapon if it were made taxable. The gain from this could be used partly to finance real increases in child benefit, and partly to raise the tax threshold - so that those at the bottom of the tax net did not suffer from the change.

It is also argued that the married man's tax allowance should be abolished, and the gain used to finance a big increase in child benefit (it would allow the Government roughly to double the present benefit of £6.50). Although this would lower tax thresholds again, it would also redistribute income from small to large families, among whom the poverty problems were concentrated. If the Chancellor were then to use his spare cash to raise all tax thresholds, he could prevent the benefit being concentrated among the rich by simultaneously narrowing the range over which the basic rate of tax applies. There are plenty of possibilities here for at least one of the Social Services Secretary's new inquiries to consider.

Hot on the trail of the cause and cure of Aids

In the past three years the western world has been stunned by the mysterious epidemic of Aids (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Previously healthy people - homosexuals, Haitians, Africans, women and children as well as haemophiliacs, drug-takers and people given blood transfusions, have suddenly found that their natural defence systems have collapsed. Many of the sufferers have died, not from the syndrome itself but from violent cancers and infections which have invaded their unprotected bodies.

That is the gloomy side of the story. Gradually the international jigsaw of what caused the immune system to disintegrate, and where it first developed, is being pieced together. Scientists are on the brink of naming the culprit virus and there are early signs that the number of new cases being reported in New York - where the syndrome was first recognized in 1981 - are falling off.

But even if the puzzle is completed tomorrow, it will be years before treatment and prevention will be successful.

MEDICAL BRIEFING SPECIAL

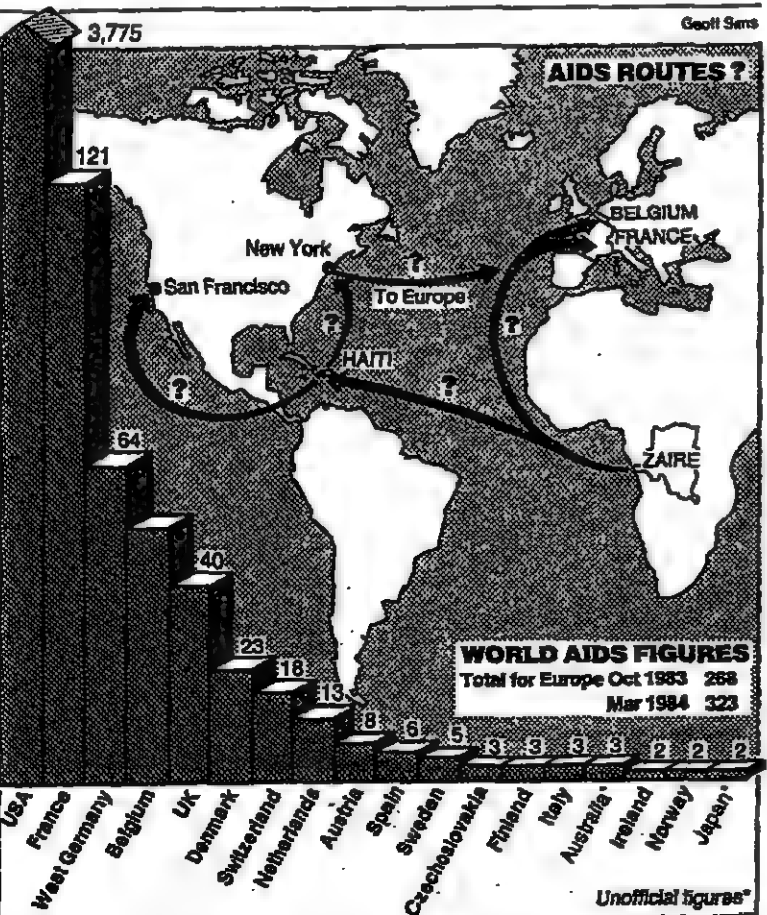
The US connexion

Up to the end of March there have been 40 reported cases of Aids in the United Kingdom, 22 of whom have died. A breakdown of the figures (see table) broadly reflects the pattern of the United States. The largest group in the US are homosexual or bisexual men (71 per cent) followed by drug addicts who inject themselves (18 per cent). Haitians (4 per cent), haemophiliacs (1 per cent) with the remaining 6 per cent belonging to none of the recognized risk groups. Cases reported in the US numbered 3,775 with 1,643 deaths (43.5 per cent mortality).

A significant link appears to exist between Britain and the United States.

Figures from other European countries are patchy and difficult to interpret. It is not clear whether all reported cases come within the strict definition of the syndrome laid down by epidemiologists at the Centres for Disease Control, Atlanta.

The European picture is further confused by the findings in France and Belgium. The 52 cases of Aids in Belgium and 121 in France do not fall into the risk groups found in other western countries. The vast majority are Africans or have visited Africa and the percentage of women



sufferers is much higher 40-45 per cent.

So what is happening in Africa? Official figures are not easily obtained, but Professor Boris Velinorovic, of Vienna University and coordinator of the World Health Organization's Aids unit in Europe, believes there are about 300 cases in Zaire and a number more in surrounding countries - former French colonies.

These revelations leave two conundrums. Are the cases of Aids in Belgium and France following the same pattern as those in America or are they caused by similar, but distinct, entities? If Aids is the same the world over, what links Africa with the US?

New or old?

"Shrouded in wild speculation", is the verdict of Professor Boris Velinorovic, coordinator of WHO's European Aids unit, on the current hypotheses on how the syndrome has spread. The first assumption is that Aids originated in Africa. If so, is it

caused by an endemic animal virus which has recently attacked man? Or is it caused by an endemic human virus, previously not recognized because of the wide range of fevers and high mortality in southern Africa, which became noticeable only when it hit people in "developed" countries? Or is it caused by a mutant virus?

The next stage of the spread is even more speculative. After independence for Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo) Haitian medical practitioners, teachers and other professionals were invited as French-speakers to help establish new services. Over the years, about 14,000 Haitians have lived in Zaire and the hypothesis assumes that susceptible individuals took Aids back to Haiti after their tour of duty. Yet, of the resident 3,000 Haitians in Zaire at the moment, not one has Aids. Haiti is a favoured holiday island for American homosexuals and many European homosexuals have admitted relationships with US nationals. But taking hypotheses like this one to be definitive can be dangerous - it poses many more questions than it provides the answers.

The viral suspects

Whatever its origins, the pattern of Aids so far suggests that the most likely cause is a virus. The theory is that the virus knocks out those white cells in the blood which are responsible for switching on the body's immune system, the T-helper cells. This renders the victim defenceless against infections and cancers.

Leading the field as the most likely viral culprit is at present a group of viruses known as retroviruses. It does not make sense to expect people to work for less than they could expect to receive for doing nothing; nor to impose a higher "marginal tax rate" on low earners than on the highest paid.

A report prepared by the Treasury in 1982 suggested that both problems were increasing. During that year, it calculated, 120,000 families faced a marginal tax rate of over 80

per cent. And over 200,000 families earned so little they would have been better off on the dole.

So what should be done? There are broadly three approaches to filling in the two "traps".

● Reducing the level of means-tested benefits. The Thatcher government did act to widen the gap between incomes in and out of work, first by cutting unemployment benefit, then by making it taxable, and finally by increasing benefits generally by less than the rise in earnings. Though it was possible to argue in the late 1970s that the real level of some benefits was too high, there were clear limits to this approach. It is not much good abolishing the poverty trap simply by increasing poverty.

● Altering the balance of benefits between those which are either means-tested or paid only to those

which may then invade the body are a cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, and a pneumonia, *Pneumocystis carinii*, which may lead to death.

For those who want further information or reassurance the Terence Higgins Trust (named after the first Briton to die from Aids) runs a helpline Mondays to Fridays 8 to 10pm, Tel (01) 2778 8745.

Complicating factors

In theory, it is possible that everyone who picks up the Aids virus will get Aids. But most investigators consider this unlikely. Instead, they think those who do develop the syndrome do so because other factors contribute to their illness. One possibility is that the victim's immune system is already below par and is unable to shake off the virus. The immune response could, for example, already have been dampened down by other infections or, in the case of haemophiliacs, by constant bombardment with blood products.

Another predisposing factor could be sperm entering the bloodstream and causing an unusual immune reaction. In a normal heterosexual relationship, a woman's reproductive tract has special defences against her partner's "foreign" sperm. But it is thought that during anal intercourse sperm can get into the recipient's bloodstream.

The Aids virus may well turn out to be quite common, and to cause serious illness in only a few of those it infects. There is already a precedent for this. Hepatitis B virus can be sexually transmitted and is common among homosexuals and drug addicts. It causes viral jaundice, but less than one per cent of its victims die. Well over 90 per cent suffer no long-term consequences at all. When hepatitis B was first seen among drug addicts in the 1960s it was thought to be a new disease. Once the virus was identified it was soon clear that it was extremely common in under-developed countries.

Even so, it is important to remember that Aids will not just go away when its cause has been discovered. If a virus is identified it will be fairly simple to develop a blood test for it. This could then be used to minimize the chances of contaminated blood or blood products being used medically. It may even help doctors to spot those who need early treatment. Finding a drug or vaccine to combat the Aids virus is a completely different matter.

Treatment pitfalls

There is still no treatment for Aids. As yet doctors can concentrate only on treating the symptoms, the Kaposi's sarcoma and the infections. This is riddled with pitfalls. Aids victims with Kaposi's sarcoma, for example, can be treated with conventional anti-cancer drugs and radiotherapy. But this depresses their immune system even further, and increases their chances of developing another life-threatening infection.

In the blood

When blood transfusion patients in America developed Aids it caused a serious stir among British Blood Transfusion Service directors. For the moment the risk in the United Kingdom is only theoretical: there have not been any cases of transfusion-associated Aids reported. Even in the US the risk is still fairly low. It is estimated that only one in a million bottles of blood there is contaminated with Aids.

Haemophiliacs, however, seem to run more risk of getting Aids. The reasons for this are twofold. First, the blood clotting factors haemophiliacs need to stay healthy are prepared from blood from thousands of donors. The chances of at least one donor having Aids are therefore that much greater. Second, we still rely on the United States for two thirds of our supplies of these products and will do until 1986. Even if British blood remains free of Aids US donated blood is not.

Frightening as the thought may be, after the initial shock last year when the risk of Aids to haemophiliacs was first publicized, doctors and haemophiliacs too have come stoically to accept Aids as just another of the risks the benefits of treatment must be set against. The incidence of Aids among haemo-

Research priorities

Massive efforts are being made to unravel the mystery of Aids. In 1983 more than \$28m was spent on research in the United States and this year over \$47m has been allotted. More than \$100m is expected to be spent on care.

Last week the first meeting took place in Paris to launch the World Health Organization collaborating centre for Aids in Europe.

Most European countries have extensive research projects, although not on the scale of the USA, and there are three teams working in Zaire. One estimate suggests there may be more scientists and doctors involved in research on Aids than there are victims.

Internationally read medical journals always carry letters and reports on findings: editors now give priority to Aids research. One letter to the *New England Journal of Medicine* pointed out that the number of articles on Aids has risen at a similar rate to the reports of new Aids cases. But the task confronting the scientific community had been enormous. The speed of the spread and the numbers of people affected are unprecedented for a new disease. The numbers have been doubling every six months in the United States while the numbers in Europe run at about 10 per cent of the American total.

Dr Harold Jaffe of the Centres for Disease Control, Atlanta, says the task has been made more difficult because of the populations involved. Homosexuals often cannot trace their contacts, intravenous drug abusers are notorious for non-cooperation and the Haitians have suffered from difficulties of communication.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Leith's Restaurant and The Good Food Guide

The Good Food Guide wishes to correct any misleading impression its latest edition may have given about Leith's Restaurant, by making quite clear that Leith's (92 Kensington Park Road, W.11; 229-4481) is alive and well and open for dinner every night including Sundays, under unchanged management.

THE TIMES DIARY

Only the crème

Tea at the Ritz is to end. From May 1, that great British institution is to be open to residents only. Blame the rift-off. For it is they, the residents who have been tainting the Ritz with a "lumpy" image - cooking their navy-like pinkies in the elegant tea lounge (one lump or three?) "We had to bring a halt to it," insists assistant manager Julian Payne. "There was a time when you could tell a man by his shoes, but now it is by his sneakers." To keep out the scruffs, he put up the price of tea to £7.50. "Nothing keeps them out. Suppose Ginger Rogers (she's booked in for June) can't have tea because they're hogging the lounge. And she's paying £300 a night (without breakfast)."

"It's ridiculous. I now have to stand at the door like a marine, trying to get them to get their feet off my £70-a-suit foot carpet. My God, now they'll be asking him to tie their whippets to the railings."

Gallows gala

Everyone associated with Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, seem to be crawling out of the brickwork for Monday's press night of *Breakneck*, a play about her case, at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East, London. Georgia Enston, Ellis's daughter, who is now a model in Lancashire, will be joined at the performance by Peter Nolan, who took over Ellis's Knightsbridge nightspot, The Little Club, after her execution. Nolan tells me he hopes to sell his "Nightclub King Tells All" story to a newspaper. Also in the theatre audience will be Glen Colson, whose father Ted turned the Magdalen Tavern in Hampstead, outside which Ellis shot her lover, into an American tourist trap. Glen tells me that after the shooting he was given the task of chiselling simulated bullet holes in the wall for dramatic effect.

Past imperfect

Sweet indeed are those rare moments when Sir Geoffrey Howe can indulge in a spot of banana-skin slinging. During a Foreign Affairs Committee meeting, Labour MP Ian Mikardo referred to Grenada as British. A smug Sir Geoffrey replied "I think you may not have moved quite into the post-colonial era. Forgive me for putting it somewhat frivolously, but British territory is not apt."

Hemmings' way

Following Lord Harewood's surprise announcement this week of his resignation from English National Opera, the smart money in the arts world is on Peter Hemmings, manager of the London Symphony Orchestra, to succeed him. Hemmings has considerable experience in opera: in 1966 he became Scottish Opera's first general administrator and presided over its rise to critical success in the early 1970s. He left in 1977 to manage Australian Opera in Sydney and returned to his present post in 1979. Recently he has been restless - and had his eye on Director of the Edinburgh Festival but was beaten to the post by Frank Dunlop.

BARRY FANTONI



"What kind of work are you looking for - fresh, canned or frozen?"

Out!

Iain "Deep" Sproat has suffered yet another setback in his political career. First he lost the safe Tory seat of Roxburgh and Berwickshire after abandoning Aberdeen South - which, to his further embarrassment, was then won by his stand-in, Gerry Malone. Yesterday the former junior trade minister was exposed to further ignominy when he was ousted as a candidate for Sir Hugh Fraser's Stafford seat by the relatively unknown William Cash, a local solicitor. As Sproat returns to the drawing board at Rothchild's, where he works as a consultant, I suggest he swallow his pride and console himself that he shares at least one common interest with Cash: cricket. The victor tells me he opens the bowling for Staffs Gents and his son played for Middlesex 2nd XI last year. As editor of the *Cricketer's Who's Who*, Sproat should know that.

Last ball

England's cricketers just back from their catastrophic tour may find some consolation in one of Rory Coonan's photographs which go on show at the Commonwealth Institute next month. It is a view of Francis Plain in St Helena, where, during a match last century, a fielder pursued a boundary-bound stroke so zealously that he followed it over a sheer drop of 300 feet. The scoreboard's tart entry of the episode: RETIRED DEAD.

PHS

No submission on this Bill

Jason Ditton defends the original proposals for independent prosecutions, which the Government seems determined to reject

a dismal and mostly unnoticed White Paper (Cmd 9074) where they still await separate primary legislation. Separation and delay might be excusable. But the Royal Commission proposals have been effectively neutered by the Government, operating backstage.

By definition, the new service should be independent of the police. Yet it must be accountable in some way, both for general prosecution policy, and for decisions in individual cases. In an attempt to balance economy with effectiveness, the Royal Commission opted cautiously for leaving the decision to begin a prosecution with the police, with the conduct of the case thereafter in the hands of the new service.

To meet the demand for national consistency of policy, each prosecutor would be under a government department (and ultimately Parliament), which would set overall policy and have powers to reverse decisions in individual cases. To meet the demand for flexibility, the prosecutor would have to explain decisions in the locality affected by them.

But when these proposals were debated in Parliament in November, 1981, curious "doubts" were expressed on both sides over unspecified "dangers" lurking within them. Strangely, what stuck most in the parliamen-

tary was the degree of local accountability, and even more strangely, that there was too much rather than too little of it. Indeed, once Eldon Griffiths, the Police Federation spokesman, announced that the federation was "concerned", the carefully considered and extensively documented proposals of the Royal Commission suddenly ceased to be worth the paper they were written on.

An inter-departmental working party was hastily convened with the purpose, as its chairman later candidly confessed to the Home Affairs Committee, of "taking apart what the Royal Commission put together". Unsurprisingly, the resulting White Paper neatly deletes the local accountability which the Royal Commission felt was "required", and proposes the type of centralized prosecution service which the commission had dismissed as "neither desirable nor necessary". Key terms were inverted. "Independence" is now defined as being from elected representatives (rather than from the police); "accountability" now for financial rather than for policy matters.

It is therefore difficult to believe that the White Paper is a safe basis for legislation. All that current government proposals would effectively achieve, if implemented, is an extension of police solicitors' departments to the few police forces now without them. Yet all that prevents this is sheer lagardness, so what on earth would conversion of White Paper into Act achieve, apart from stifling the opportunity to enact genuine and long overdue reform?

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The author is lecturer in sociology at Glasgow University, and a member of the executive committee of the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties.

Peter Nichols analyses the attack on Rome's 'anti-Soviet reactionary'

Why the Pope is back in the firing line

Rome The communist world has delivered its heaviest verbal attack on the Pope just as the Italian courts are preparing to try the Bulgarian accused of conspiring to kill him.

The attack was launched by the Czechoslovak weekly *Tribuna*, which describes John Paul II as "one of the most reactionary pontiffs of our century." It is accused of conducting a campaign against progressive forces throughout the world and of reversing the concepts of his more flexible predecessors.

The Roman Catholic Church is treated worse in Czechoslovakia than in any other Eastern European country, but that situation is not sufficient to explain this blanket-barrage against the Pope which is taken to emanate from Moscow as much as from Prague. According to *Tribuna*, his speeches abroad are marked by "a policy of restoration of old social orders", a policy which has as its dominant theme "a passionate anti-communism and a visceral anti-Sovietism."

The Vatican has officially described the attack as absurd, but that does not mean it is regarded as insignificant. There is an awareness in the more expert reaches of the Vatican that a new stage has indeed been reached in relations between the Papacy and the Eastern Block. In fact the *Tribuna* article recognizes this because it compares John Paul II's approach with the wisdom and sense of reality of John XXIII and the "centrist diplomacy" of Paul VI, the two predecessors whose names the present pontiff adopted at his election.

In immediate terms, the Vatican's analysis is similar to that of the Czechoslovak in identifying three different approaches by as many different popes to the problem of dealing with the communist world.

John XXIII was elected in 1958 when the Vatican's stance was fiercely anti-communist. In his brief but tumultuous reign, he brought a fresh look to relations with the Soviet world. He invited Russian Orthodox observers to his Vatican Council, received Khrushchev's son-in-law, taught the possibility of cooperation with men of goodwill even if they followed mistaken ideologies, and began the long series of diplomatic negotiations in a search for greater space for the church's activities.

Paul VI was temperamentally suited to the diplomatic approach and followed his predecessor in avoiding the public condemnations of communism common before 1958.

It is arguable - and is argued at the Vatican - that these two popes were reflecting the atmosphere of their times. John XXIII's cautious opening took place at a moment of widespread hope for better times: the young Kennedy was United States president and Khrushchev appeared determined to give a more attractive appearance to the Soviet regime. Paul VI's diplomacy showed in its limited but real results that the effort at negotiation was worth the criticisms from conservative Roman Catholics.

Then came John Paul II. The joy of his native Poland at his election was shared to some extent by the country's communist authorities, who saw it, somewhat shortsightedly, as a lesser evil than his possible appointment as primate of Poland.

John Paul II's attitudes could hardly be other than different to those of his predecessors. More than a diplomat, he has a vision. He has repeatedly spoken of Europe as stretching to the Urals. He sees his election as a sign that Eastern Europe must be given its just place as an integral part of Christian Europe and not be treated simply as a painful diplomatic question. He insists on common Christian roots and, added to this vision, is a dream of reconciliation between Western Christianity and the Eastern Orthodox churches.

Compared with his predecessors he is, in the words of a highly placed prelate at the Vatican, "laying for much higher stakes, and one result is that the Soviet leadership sees him as an adversary." That would not have been said about a pope even in private at any time in the last quarter of a century, any more than the Czechoslovak attack would have been made during that period. His attitude is seen, however, to reflect the current state of relations between East and West. Who now sees hope for a genuine understanding with the Soviet Union?

Does this adversary status mean that Moscow was behind the nearly successful attempt on his life in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981? Some light will be shed on this mystery when the trial at last takes place here of Sergei Antonov, the



Smiles as the Pope meets General Jaruzelski during his visit to Poland last year. The reality is somewhat different

Bulgarian Airlines official accused of helping Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist, in the assassination plot.

A decision is expected daily from the investigating magistrate on whether he should be sent for trial, and it is almost certain that he will. It is believed that he must answer charges, that he drove Agca to St. Peter's on that fateful day and was ready to help him escape. In the event, some muscular nuns assured Agca's capture.

The implicit danger is that if the attempt on the Pope's life was really organized by the East, they will feel that they have to try again. In the intervening three years his design has become clearer. The Prague attack shows that he is regarded as a serious danger.

But it also bears out one of his great disappointments. The Pope is often regarded as being too Polish in his attitude towards the church internationally. But his close advisers point out that he is genuinely attached to the Slav peoples as a whole: he is deeply moved by the Eastern liturgy.

He had hoped that, in some way, communism would change. Prague underlines that it is showing no signs of doing so.

The effect of his approach to the

East is still too confused for a clear judgment on its results. Poland is in constant torment. There is frequent criticism in the Vatican of Cardinal Glemp, whose appointment is said to have been inevitable by a telephone call to the Pope from Cardinal Wyszynski, the late Primate on his deathbed.

Glemp is felt to be too ready to seek to come to terms with the regime while too little concerned to carry the rest of the Polish bishops with him.

A likely explanation for the current controversy over crucifixes in Polish schools is that it represents the impatience of militant Catholics at the prospect of too close an alignment between church and state at the top.

Opinion is growing in Hungary that the church there should show more independence from the regime, with consequences still obscure. In Czechoslovakia, the Vatican's instruction that priests should leave the Paces in Tere's movement, which is seen here to be a political instrument of the regime, was successful only with some 15 per cent of the membership. The Pope's vision is splendid enough but he must also feel his share of frustrations and perhaps of danger.

Can something different save Radio 4?

What network is supposed to be BBC Radio's flagship. Why don't as many people want to listen as they did? Falling audiences have created attitudes which threaten standards and aggravate the decline. They also put the thumbscrew into the hands of those who decree licence fees and allocate budgets.

Of course there is always the case of Radio 3, which costs just a little less than Radio 2 and which attracts only about 10 per cent of that network's audience - about 100,000.

But Radio 3 is a very special case. We have agreed by some sort of unspoken, probably rather narrow and certainly very influential consensus, that such expenditure on a relatively tiny audience is worthwhile. Indeed, we might even become seriously alarmed if the listening figures began to show a significant improvement.

Personally I feel that a little of the same approving consensus might attach to Radio 4, which in the excellence and variety of much that it puts out is a national asset every bit as valuable as its culturally more esteemed colleague. But I have little hope of selling that point of view.

It is against this background that *Rollercoaster* will be making itself heard every Thursday morning until

October. More specifically, the scheduling represents an effort to reverse a particularly marked decline in listening after 9 am, and its seamless construction an attempt to stop people from switching off at programme breaks by not giving them any.

Whatever you may have thought of the first edition, I believe it is quite wrong to view the enterprise with too much apprehension. The Controller of Radio 4, David Hatch, has said repeatedly and emphatically that he will be judged by his audience - if it does not like the programme, something different will be done - I think he is to be believed. His record as Controller of Radio 2 suggests as much.

It also suggests that he is by nature an innovator with an ear for what people like. Indeed the content of Radio 4, which by now is beginning to bear his mark, supports the truth of that.

When Mr Hatch talks of his devotion to the "rich mix", he is again to be taken seriously, and not too much weight attached to the slightly furtive disappearance of the Thursday concert. He certainly made efforts to enrich the mix on Radio 2 as first the *Fordyce Saga* and now *Space Force* goes to show.

But I think the operative phrase

in his reassurance is that "something different will be done". Although in October the standard morning format will return, I cannot see that the awful reports of its impending dismemberment before the publication of *BBC Radio in the Nineties* were not without foundation. So between now and October it seems to me that David Hatch needs our ears and our voices, although not the sort of voice that wails "I don't like it because it is not like it was before".

Are we going to like our Thursday mornings? I think we might. Yesterday there was the odd technical hitch and the signposting was pretty messy - I could not work out what was coming when. However, if I compare what I heard with what I expected and certainly with what goes out on LBC at the same time, then it was a good mix. And even quite a rich one.

David Wade

David Watt

Making molehills out of mountains

What, if anything, can the world expect of this year's seven-nation summit meeting in London in a few weeks' time? The Trilateral Commission, being in the ginger-group business, has just produced a laudably peppery agenda, written jointly by Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's security adviser, Saburo Okita, a former Japanese foreign minister, and David Owen.

The document outlines an elaborate programme of action sprinkled liberally with "urgent" and "radical". It calls, among other things, for the reduction of the US budget deficit, a revival of European technology, a more responsible attitude by Japan to a world from which it is making so much money, adding for good measure a demand for an agreement to stabilize exchange rates to share defence burdens and to cope with the Third World debt crisis. It is an impressive list, and most of it, I'm afraid, is pure fantasy.

The trouble is not of course, that these are not genuine problems. It is perfectly obvious to everyone, except President Reagan, that the US budget deficit is too big and Europe's structural unemployment is causing a heavy political cloud over the whole western alliance. But the sad truth is that there is no political will among the present summiters to tackle these and other evils in a cooperative fashion; and even if there were, there would not be the slightest possibility of dealing with more than a tenth of the Trilateral agenda at one summit.

To understand the realities it is necessary to recall a little history (and for this purpose there is an excellent new book on the subject, *Hanging Together*, by N. Bayne and R. Putnam (Heinemann)). The summit series, which began at Rambouillet in 1975, has been through three phases. The first was run more or less according to the prescriptions of German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and President Giscard d'Estaing of France, who had invented the whole idea.

The notion was of a quiet, civilized country weekend at which a handful of powerful and intelligent potentates, most of whom had been finance minister at one time or another, would discuss world economic problems, in rather general terms, and perhaps give a well-judged push to the system here and there as a result.

This worked reasonably well, though with very limited results, until Jimmy Carter came along in 1977 with his earnest managerial style and a lot of demands for real macro-economic coordination between the major industrial economies. The famous "locomotive" theory, whereby the US and West German economies were supposed to pull the world out of recession, was one centrepiece of his scheme; later, when the second oil shock came upon us in 1978, there was the idea of a cooperative US-European-Japanese attempt to cope with the consequences of the crisis.

Both these mechanisms were eventually put into operation, though only at the cost of the most traumatic rows - mainly between the Americans and the Germans - and with real results, or possibly lack of them, that the economists are still arguing about.

The third phase was ushered in with the arrival of Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan. Both of them were in a nationalist frame of mind;

both had a strong ideological dislike of attempts to organize economic forces: both were inexperienced and ill at ease with international questions. In short, both thoroughly distrusted the entire exercise.

Mrs Thatcher's advisers had the greatest difficulty in getting her to take a single step in the direction of the Tokyo summit a few weeks after her 1979 election victory. "Why on earth should I go all that way? I have much more important things to do here," was her attitude. She has been softened, of course, by the "top table" benefits of publicity and the like (which paid off handsomely when the Williamsburg summit fell right in the middle of last year's British election campaign), but basically neither she nor Reagan (nor, for that matter, Chancellor Kohl) believes that global "economic management" is a Carter is desirable or feasible.

In a sense, therefore, we are now back to the original Giscardian summit model. But there are two important differences. The first is that there are more crises to deal with than in the golden days when the Rambouillet summiters had nothing more to worry about than an economic boom that was getting out of hand.

The second change is that most of the present incumbents are actually more interested in politics than in economics. They are more likely to want to talk, though in general terms, about East-West relations than about exchange-rate surveillance for the simple reason that on the former subject they have at least a foggy idea of what they are talking about.

Even when events force them, or politics tempt them, to address immediate economic questions, there are plenty of factors working to abort successful discussion. For one thing, there is the problem of France. French diplomacy is, as usual, based on the proposition that while multilateralism is just about tolerable in economic questions, it is far too restrictive in French freedom of action in political matters.

Another problem is the sheer shortage of time available: out of the 366 days of 1984, only about five hours will be found for the joint discussion of the world's most critical problems: the rest of the meeting will be taken up by social functions, press conferences, photo calls, bilateral conclaves and wrangles about the precise wording of the communiqué. This is totally inadequate for the task in hand.

What, then, is to be done? Clearly it is better that summits take place than that they do not, because occasional communication at the highest level helps leaders to understand one another's problems. But we are in a quandary. Summits are almost by definition very much the personal property of whoever are the contemporary summiters. One could easily devise the most elaborate machinery to improve them - a small secretariat, longer and more frequent meetings and so forth. With a different cast of characters this might be effective and necessary.

But what is the use if, as at present, leaders do not have the desire or capacity to take advantage of the machinery that exists? If there is a moral at all to be drawn from the history of summits so far, it is that if we really want the kind of economic management the Trilateralists are after, there is nothing for it but to change our leaders.

Philip Howard

Olympic spirit skating on thin ice

I can see that sliding in time with Ravel's *Bolero* is pretty, if you like that kind of thing. I find ballet prettier, and even at the ballet a grimace has been known to twitch at the corners of my mouth at the solemn moments. When Pearl and Dean grab each other around the upper thighs while slipping backwards at 20 miles an hour, or twizzle around on their tummies on the ice looking soulful, they add to the hilarity of nations, and enrich the public stock of harmless pleasure. I can see that it is clever. Those of us who fall axel over salchow as soon as we try to go backwards on skates can scarce forbear to cheer and throw bouquets on the ice. But is it sport? I doubt, whether in figure skating, whose result depends so much on aesthetic judgments of arbiters ought to be an Olympic sport.

I remember putting this argument once to a royal personage who was shortly to go bouncing on horseback for Britain. True Olympic sports, I said, ought to be settled by the skill and strength of individual athletes, with no help from expensive equipment such as horses, which favours those with long purses, and with the result plain without the verdict of judges, who may be partisan or short-sighted. If you had to have equestrian events, which I doubted, it would be fairer and more in tune with the Olympic spirit if the riders had to dismount half way round the course, and carry their mounts over the second half. I remember that seemed to laugh more at my joke than she did.

My argument was unhistorical as well as impertinent. Horses and chariot races were introduced into the Olympic Games early in the seventh century BC, probably because it suited Pheidon, tyrant of Argos, whose chaps were bad at running, but good with horses. Early discus and javelin throwers depended on equipment almost as much as Pearl and Dean depend on their skates, blades and skates, although I had not realized that they had electric skates until the nonsense was held up by a power failure.

I understand that swimming in unison, as it used to be performed

by Esther Williams and a team of aquatic beauties, doing the backstroke in unison, and singing, and smiling the while, is one of the new events for the summer Olympics. We are evidently in a period of decadence in sport, where spectacle and circus matter more than athleticism. We have been through it before: when the Reds and Greens rioted for days about the equestrian events at Constantinople when Nero won the ice skating and the chariot racing at Olympia, even though he fell out of his chariot, had to be pushed back in, and still did not finish the course.

But if we are going in for spectacle, we should go the whole hog, whether in the half pig or the dancing and unison swimming. I doubt whether even the boys in the Shed at Stamford Bridge are ready for gladiators, or for skinheads being thrown to the lions - yet. But Timothy Severin's latest loony voyage provides an idea for a new Olympic sport, more spectacular and more traditional than *Bolero* on ice. You may have seen that he proposes to sail a new Argo in the puddles of the Argonauts to Colchis on a quest for the Golden Fleece Television Award.

Mr Severin says that he wants to establish the actual basis for the legendary voyage of Jason. Scholars will be able to judge it, once the evidence is there in reality, not in books. That seems to take a naive view of mythology; and of books, for that matter. The idea has merit, not as evidence of anything, but as an Olympic sport. Nations will build their Argos, and select their strongest teams of heroes. The judges will arrange the obstacles and hazards of the course, as they do at present in the slalom and the horsy events. We shall borrow aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines from the great powers to represent the Clashing Rocks, Triton, and other sea obstacles. Their air forces can supply the Harpies. For the encounter with the women of Lemnos, I suggest that we combine the event with the Miss World Contest. Television will accompany the teams on their journey. And it will be good sport.

Vatt
holehill
mountain

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WHILE BRITAIN SLEPT

The citizens of Grenada were rescued last October from a grisly fate. The events which led to the assassination of the Prime Minister, Mr Maurice Bishop, were coolly described yesterday in the report of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. The prose may be cool, but it cannot conceal the fact that Grenada had been hijacked by a particularly nasty little gang of Marxist-Leninists aided by representatives of Cuba, the Soviet Union, Libya, Bulgaria and North Korea.

The Report states that Britain was insufficiently attuned to the feelings of the Commonwealth Caribbean states about events in Grenada. Ministers were thus unresponsive to their cries for help. The Report criticised the American administration for intentionally keeping Britain short of information about the plan to intervene. Shortage there may have been, but surely that was understandable in the light of the total passivity shown by the British authorities. It was a reasonable assumption for Washington to make that the British passivity indicated a reluctance to get involved.

The narrative of the Select Committee makes it quite clear that any active diplomacy in the Caribbean and between London and Washington could soon have discovered what was planned. It is true that there was a legacy of ill-feeling between the American Embassy in Barbados and the British High Commission, but beyond that the Foreign Office and the Foreign Secretary stand guilty either of a deliberate passivity or else an incapacity to sense a developing emergency in a strikingly and alarmingly similar way to that shown before Argentina invaded the Falklands.

Once they were caught on the hop the British authorities behaved even worse. They wholly

misjudged the Caribbean context and thus attempted to seek refuge in the small-print which itself distorted the realities of the crisis. The Prime Minister said that one could not go walking into other people's countries. The Foreign Secretary echoed these sentiments. They chose to ignore them, and still ignore now, the salient fact that the sole remaining constitutional authority in Grenada - the Governor-General - had personally invited the international force first orally and then in writing when his physical security was assured. Even when Sir Paul Scoon personally confirmed this version on television Sir Geoffrey Howe, on the same screen a few minutes later, was unable to give him or the facts the recognition they deserved.

The operation was justified on other grounds by the Organisation of East Caribbean States and by the United States. They were legitimate in law but they were arguable in politics. However the role of the Governor-General is unarguable. The other elements in Grenada's constitution had manifestly broken down. His duty and his prerogatives were clear. He had no obligations to the British Government. He was wise to leave the Palace out of it. The Queen of Grenada was not at home. He was, both from the nature of his office and from the circumstances obtaining at the time, a plenipotentiary. Was it pique, guilt or both which inspired the Foreign Office and British ministers to be so aloof and ungenerous in their judgment of his action?

It may seem a small episode in the life of the Alliance, best now forgotten. But it is not. The Select Committee cautiously examined the consequences in the Caribbean and concludes that the damage to British relations with its Commonwealth partners is not deep. Perhaps that is only

because the previous evidence of British neglect, vividly illustrated by its lack of representation during the crisis, had already convinced Caribbean states that their best interests lay in seeking the protection of the United States. They were right, since Britain could not anyway have provided the necessary force in time. One is left with a suspicion, however, that Britain's physical inability to participate in the operation, and its intelligence shortcomings, contributed to a sourness which gratuitously infected British judgments of the whole operation.

The remaining question is: has it affected the underlying strengths in the Anglo-American relationship? On the surface that may be denied; but most people in Washington draw an unfavourable comparison between the spontaneity of American support for Mrs Thatcher during the Falklands crisis, and the meanness of spirit displayed to Caribbean leaders and the American administration over Grenada.

The basic fabric of the alliance has been bruised. The Administration already feels hemmed-in by allies and by Congress, which both inhibit its ability to conduct an active and flexible foreign policy. Now Britain can no longer be relied upon to be there on the night.

The Grenada episode showed a British failure of intelligence, a failure of judgment and a failure of nerve. Yet the world is full of Grenadas - micro-states vulnerable to the predations of what the Select Committee described as a "classic revolutionary movement in the Bolshevik mould". There will be more cries for help, more rescue operations, to be mounted. Sir Geoffrey Howe needs to reassure the Commons that Britain is not going to sleep through them all.

A LESSON FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Slowly, painfully but ultimately to their own great benefit and to that of workers in other industries, the miners are learning and teaching their fellow trade unionists that when a trade union leadership behaves as its members' worst enemy it must be faced and resisted. Yesterday, the Nottinghamshire miners' delegates rejected their executive's recommendation (which itself had resulted more from a loss of will than a positive wish to support the Yorkshire pickets) not to cross picket lines. They took this decision with the convincing majority of 182 votes to 72. In so doing they may prove to have thwarted Mr Arthur Scargill's wish to use his union as the spearhead of a political strike.

One of the most significant aspects of the dispute in the mining industry is the extent to which the totem of the picket line has lost its power to terrify by moral persuasion, which has ultimately been its greatest power. Of course, mass picketing with its implicit and explicit intimidation is also a formidable power, but at least that is something that can be resisted with the help of the police. But when this help is given, the final decision whether to cross the lines is for each worker alone, and what has been most remarkable has been the willingness of miners in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire to accept police protection as a means of doing the work they wish to do. It is the outward and visible sign of a waning belief in blind solidarity for solidarity's sake.

The reason is the new econ-

omic realism of many miners, to which they have been brought by the facts of a trade unionist's life in the 1980s, and by their commitment to what used to be called middle-class standards and aspirations for their families. They need to work in an industry that is stable, economically productive and well-paid. To turn the coal-mines into that kind of industry is the object of Mr Ian Macgregor and the National Coal Board, and it is against this object that Mr Scargill has been appealing with his wish to strike in aid of uneconomic pits. There is no reason to doubt that Mr Scargill sees this dispute as the weapon with which to try to break the government's economic policy and perhaps bring down the government itself.

His tactics have been to avoid a national strike ballot for fear that it would go against him, and to use the secondary pressure of the militant areas against those which want to work, so producing a domino reaction by which the mining areas are brought to a standstill one by one. By this means, he had hoped to be able to argue, when the National Union of Mineworkers' executive meets next Thursday, that the coalfields had already virtually opted to strike, and that a ballot was therefore unnecessary.

Now, as a result of the Nottinghamshire miners' decision, this claim has no credibility, not least because they work in Britain's second largest coalfield. Secondary picketing has not worked as intended either physically or morally within the coalfields, and more

than that it has not worked outside either. Apart from the decision by the National Union of Seamen's executive to "black" all coal imports (a clear case of unlawful secondary action) other industries have refused to be seduced by Mr Scargill's insidious invitation to follow him into a fight with the government. Though the National Union of Railwaymen's leaders have officially instructed their members to ban the movement of coal, the rail unions in practice appear to be doing their best to avoid all-out confrontation with British Rail. Even more forcibly, the power and steel workers (the latter at Ravenscraig most emphatically) are making it clear that they do not intend to destroy their own jobs to help Mr Scargill towards a widespread political strike which would certainly fail for lack of public support.

The bane of British trade unionism since the war has been its leaders' refusal to accept that their members' interest is best served by a sense of identification with the prosperity of an economically productive working organization. One of Mrs Thatcher's biggest achievements has been to stand back from industrial disputes and refuse to buy bogus peace with intervention and uneconomic compromise. The government wants economic realities to teach their own lesson. Mr Scargill has not learnt it because he does not want to. A free and prosperous society which benefits all in the long run is not his sort of society, but increasingly it is that of his members.

On valuable practical work in areas such as education, scientific research and the rescue of historic monuments; that very nearly all its decisions are taken by consensus, which means that countries such as the United States and Britain which went along with these decisions must share responsibility for them; and that its operations are regularly scrutinized by two external monitors, the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit and the United Kingdom Comptroller and Auditor General.

There can be no doubt that a major shake-up is necessary. The original ideals have been tarnished and submerged beneath mountains of paper and vacuous talk. Initially Unesco itself should be given a chance to put these things right; but not for long. If it shows it cannot do so, the major dissatisfied contributors will have to get together to see if there is some way in which the best of Unesco's work can be brought under another roof while the rest is left to wither in the hands of those who prefer it as it is.

UNESCO ON BORROWED TIME

Unesco was founded in the warm glow of post-war idealism when it was tempting to believe that wars could be avoided if only intelligent, educated people sat down together and talked over their differences. As Mr Attlee, then British Prime Minister, said: "Since war began in the minds of men it is in the minds of men that the defence of peace must be reconstructed." Hence it was thought that a United Nations body dedicated to furthering education, intellectual exchange and the free flow of ideas could contribute to preventing another war.

It was a noble dream but it had flaws. Among other things it presupposed that conflicts derive mostly from ignorance and misunderstanding, that people will agree if these are cleared up, and that most people actually want to agree. In fact, of course, James Thurber was nearer the truth with his cartoon showing one member of a couple saying "Now that I understand you I don't like you." Conflicts are often based on genuine conflicts of interest, not misunderstandings, and many states, when given the floor at a meeting,

prefer propounding their own views to bridging differences with others.

Sadly, Unesco has fallen victim largely to the reality of the world as it is - riven by ideological and national differences and dominated numerically by a multitude of small states, many of them newly emerged from colonialism and often more interested in propagating their ideas than seeking after higher truths. In addition, like any large bureaucracy, Unesco has accumulated a lot of vested interests and dead wood.

As a result, the patience of the largest contributor, the United States, has snapped, and Britain's is near the same point. Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, has written a letter to the Director-General of Unesco, Mr M'Bow, making a large number of well-founded criticisms and calling for substantial changes in the way Unesco spends its money.

The gist of Unesco's defence is to develop intellectual cooperation among nations it cannot opt out of political controversy; that most of its money is spent

Preventing a war in outer space

From Mr Robert Banks, MP for Harrogate (Conservative)

Sir, People can no longer ignore the real prospect that space, too, will become a battleground in a super-power conflict. The United States "Star Wars" development programme will inevitably be duplicated in the Soviet Union in one way or another. In time weapons and counter-weapons systems will be produced and stationed in space at vast costs to both sides.

It is not only relevant but vital to ask what exactly is the role of Nato in all this. Let us not delude ourselves either into believing that a space war can take the place of or be seen as one on earth. Surely all governments need to be concerned about a possible war over their heads. In would, in my view, be right to try and persuade the Soviet Union and the United States to draw up a space treaty to prohibit the stationing or firing of any weapon of destruction in space.

It is not yet too late to make a Stars Persecution Bill. Yours faithfully, R. G. BANKS, House of Commons, April 4.

Toll of unemployment

From Mr James Callaghan, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth (Labour)

Sir, Professor Wilson's letter, published in today's edition of *The Times*, refers to the tragic rise in unemployment during the Callaghan and Thatcher governments.

May I point out that during 1976, when I became Prime Minister, the average monthly count of the unemployed in Great Britain was 1,305,000. In 1979, when I left office, the average monthly count was 1,336,000 - an increase of 25,000 and a far cry from today's three millions.

Had the trade union movement been far-sighted enough to continue its support of realistic incomes policy, the country would have been spared much (but not all) of the tragic increase in unemployment that has taken place since.

Yours faithfully, JAMES CALLAGHAN, House of Commons, April 5.

From Professor J. E. Meade, FBA

Sir, In 1981 it was essential to restrain inflation. There were two possible strategies: one was to restrain effective demand for the products of labour until unemployment was raised to a level sufficient to break the wage inflation; the other was to achieve a radical reform of wage-setting arrangements which would allow the effective demand for labour to be sustained at adequate levels without an undue inflation of money wage costs.

The second method is incomparably more efficient and more humane, but alas, also incomparably more difficult and challenging politically.

The first method has brought inflation down at the cost of a great rise in unemployment. But, unless some government can be found to face the more difficult and challenging task, the inflationary threat is likely to be renewed if and when, by whatever means, unemployment is restored towards the levels successfully sustained in the quarter of a century after World War II.

Yours faithfully, JAMES MEADE, Christ's College, Cambridge.

80 years of Entente

From the Chairman of the Franco-British Council

Sir, Eighty years ago this week-end, on April 8, 1904, France and Britain signed the agreements which established the *Entente Cordiale* between the two countries. These agreements put an end to centuries of strife and disagreement between France and Britain and established instead the alliance which, in two world wars, has since contributed so much to preserving our common values and heritage.

When the Queen visited France in 1972, the two governments commemorated the occasion by founding the Franco-British Council, whose purpose was and remains the improvement of Franco-British relations and understanding.

As co-chairmen of this council we therefore ask you, Sir, to allow us to recall the eightieth anniversary of the *Entente Cordiale* and to express our continuing firm belief that

Ghana's economic ills

From the High Commissioner for Ghana

Sir, By relying entirely on the substance of, and - most unusually for the *Times* newspaper - on direct quotations from, a press release issued by what you describe as a group of Ghanaian exiles, your leading article of March 7 on Ghana forfeited whatever claim it might have laid even to the semblance of objectivity. What is also astonishing is that it failed to take any account of assessments by such institutions as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, for which your newspaper has previously shown a consistently favourable bias.

At the meeting of the Consultative Group (of donor countries and multilateral institutions) for Ghana, held in Paris last November, there was broad acknowledgement of the near total collapse in which the Ghana Government found the economy on taking office just over two years ago.

The difficulties standing in the way of recovery, which have been aggravated by exceptionally serious drought, bush fires and the influx, early last year, of more than one million Ghanaian returnees from Nigeria, were generally recognised as formidable. Indeed, the consensus was that few countries have started the process of trying to make a comeback from

VAT burden on historic homes

From the Chairman of the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England

Sir, Several correspondents have pointed out that the proposed extension of VAT to building reconstruction and alterations would provide an even stronger incentive than already exists for owners to demolish older properties rather than to restore and convert them.

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission endorse those views. We are concerned that such an extension of VAT, together with the proposal in respect of the sale or lease of reconstructed buildings, would seriously inhibit the preservation of historic buildings, especially those in a state of dereliction or in need of a new use.

Private individuals, by whom most listed buildings are owned, would have to find an extra 15 per cent for reconstruction, alterations and conversion. So would churches and charities, which already have difficulty in raising funds for major reconstruction or conversion.

The VAT change would also threaten the operation of the building preservation trusts which, in the last ten years, have come to play a crucial role in saving historic buildings. Most of those trusts operate on very small margins and would not be able to obtain an extra 15 per cent on the sale of properties they have restored. Already several important projects, including that for the Thermal Baths, Buxton, have been halted following the VAT announcement.

The VAT changes would also rule out many schemes of restoration and improvement of historic buildings by housing associations, which have saved many properties of architectural distinction, especially in the inner cities, as well as providing much needed housing.

These VAT proposals run directly counter to the Government's policy of preserving historic buildings and areas, which this commission has been appointed to carry out. We

Cost of car parts

From the Director General of the Engineering Industries Association

Sir, I refer to Mr Clifford Webb's article of March 28 ("Austin threat to buy car parts abroad") and the threat to British component manufacturers. As Director General of the Engineering Industries Association I am becoming increasingly concerned at the utterances of Mr Harold Musgrove, Chairman of Austin Rover. He is confusing cause and effect.

We have difficulty in selling overseas or, for that matter, at home because our factory-gate prices are too high to be competitive. Our prices are too high for a multiplicity of reasons, but the major ones relate to the Government taking far too big a bite out of the manufacturing cake before it is baked.

The reason for this is to enable the Government to make massive handouts to such as Mr Musgrove. If he will give us our billion pounds back we will reduce our prices. He really cannot have it both ways. I have just returned from overseas seeking to sell products which in some cases are 25 per cent above our international competitors' costs.

The on-costs of manufacturing in this country are ludicrous. Rent, rates, energy costs, NHU contributions, raw material costs, enforced increases in staff to cover social administrative activities as PAYE, social security payments and VAT, postal and telecommunication charges are all outside management control and are far too high.

Mr Watkinson has drawn the wrong conclusion without seeking evidence as far as Repton is concerned.

We admitted a limited number of day girls on an experimental basis from 1978. Since then we've concluded that both their performance and their influence were remarkably good, and therefore built a boarding house for girls from our own resources.

Far from being a matter of convenience or need, this decision was made on a principle derived from experience. Perhaps educational policies should more often be the subject of limited or controlled trials.

Yours faithfully, G. S. DAWES, (Chairman of the Governors, Repton School), University of Oxford.

Girls in boys' schools

From Professor G. S. Dawes, FRS

Sir, Your Education Correspondent (March 29) has reported Mr Watkinson, of Rydal School, as suggesting that the first motive of boys' independent public schools in admitting girls was "survival and enlargement of the school". It was said to be a "move founded on convenience rather than conviction".

such depths and with so much against them.

The chairman of the meeting also remarked that to date no government in Ghana, and few elsewhere in recent years, had attempted such comprehensive and far-reaching economic reforms as have been introduced in the course of the past year. The meeting itself noted with satisfaction that the Government was steadfastly pursuing its courageous programme to revitalise the economy and, in particular, that during 1983 a number of important steps had been taken even in advance of the agreed schedule.

The World Bank has concluded that after a difficult first year in office, during which the Ghana Government took extraordinary measures to arrest the slide in the economy, the Government's policy reforms demonstrate a firm resolve to come to grips with the country's economic problems. The IMF for its part has noted that the Government's stabilization programme is an important and realistic step towards rehabilitating the Ghanaian economy.

It is the prediction of the fund that given a continuation of current adjustment policies, balance of payments viability will be achieved in three to five years: 1983, in its view, was a year of consolidation and real growth is likely to pick up in 1984. The bank also expects that the economy will attain moderately

hope that the proposals will be reconsidered as a matter of urgency and that buildings which are listed, or situated in conservation areas, will be zero-rated for repairs, alterations and reconstruction and on the sale or lease after such work.

If that does not happen the damage to the efforts of many individuals and organisations to protect our heritage and to the built heritage itself will indeed be substantial.

Yours faithfully, MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU, Chairman, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, c/o 2 Marsham Street, SW1.

From Mr John E. Barham
Sir, I have followed the correspondence in your columns on the Chancellor's proposal to increase the VAT charged on building repairs and your readers may be interested in the policy in Belgium.

All house repairs, including painting, and most of the materials used are charged VAT at 6 per cent instead of the usual 19 per cent. Grants covering 30 per cent of the cost of renewal up to a maximum of £3,750 are available in Brussels and may be increased up to 40 per cent, with a maximum of £5,000 for houses in designated areas of the city.

These grants, subject to certain conditions, are also paid to tenants who carry out such work. The two programmes have started a much-needed renovation of older houses, while providing employment in the building and related industries.

HM Government may wish to compare the synergistic benefits of this policy with the likely effects of the Chancellor's proposals, not to mention the risk of repairs being done without paying the full amount of VAT.

Yours faithfully, J. E. BARHAM, Rue du Portugal 25, 1060 Brussels, Belgium.

If Mr Musgrove wishes to talk free and fair trade and presumably to act on Sir Michael Edwards' "inalienable right" to buy wherever it is cheapest he should first establish costing parameters to ensure all factors are considered. He should then unravel and define that which is free and fair.

Yours faithfully, W. T. WILLIAMS, Director General, Engineering Industries Association, 16 Dartmouth Street, Westminster, SW1.

Cardinal and the Pill

From the Very Reverend Monsignor G. R. Leonard

Sir, Unlike your Religious Affairs Correspondent, Clifford Longley ("Hume will not back Gillick over the pill action", April 5) I do not feel that the BMA will take any comfort from the full text of Cardinal Hume's letter to Mrs Gillick.

It may not be clear from your Correspondent's report that the Cardinal states in his letter that "the values which you seek to protect and promote are indeed precious to all Catholics and to many outside the Church". He is profoundly disturbed by the rapid growth of "a contraceptive and anti-life mentality" in British society today.

He quotes with approval the fact that many bishops have already encouraged Catholic support for the reform of the DHSS guidelines. He stresses that the bishops of England and Wales will "urge strongly on public authorities their responsibilities not to undermine family values and to protect children from every kind of corruption".

It is only within this context that one properly understands that the Cardinal reserves judgment on the question of whether these issues are best resolved or properly treated by means of a court case.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE R. LEONARD, Archbishop's House, Westminster, SW1, April 5.

Threat to butterflies

From Dr J. L. Campbell

Sir, The news that thousands of five species of butterflies are to be released on Hampstead Heath (report, March 29) is something that will be learnt by serious nature lovers with mixed feelings.

Apart from the fact that the British migration records for the Red Admiral and the Painted Lady will become worthless this year and whenever such a thing is done again, what chance will the more sedentary species have amongst the urban sprawls and the insecticide-soaked hedged fields of southern England?

It would be better if the money were spent on encouraging the natural habitats of British butterflies, where these are threatened.

Yours faithfully, J. L. CAMPBELL, Cana House, Isle of Cana, Scotland, March 30.

US do-gooders?

From Colonel James Ferguson

Sir, In his Letter from Washington (April 2) Christopher Thomas gives some interesting examples of Washingtonese and Pentagonese used by that master of both dialects, Alexander Haig. But to be fair to that distinguished former Supreme Commander and Secretary of State, when he used to ask of his subordinates if a particular solution they were proposing was actually "do-able" they were in no doubt whatsoever what he meant, nor, what is more, of the fate which would befall them if, in the event, it proved not to be.

Yours faithfully, JAMES FERGUSON, 13 Blackhouse Hill, Hythe, Kent, April 2.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Magical fragment of remembrance

Swann in Love (18)
Lumière

Due to an Act of God (15)
Everyman, Hampstead

The Country Girls (PG)
Minema

City of Lost Souls
ICA Cinema

High Road to China (PG)
Odeon Marble Arch

Proust has long been the film-makers' Everest. Years ago Visconti planned an assault; then Joseph Losey and Harold Pinter mounted an expedition, but only reached base camp — a published screenplay. The ascent has finally been made by Volker Schlöndorff in *Swann in Love*, and it is an international flag he has placed precariously at the peak. He is German; the screenplay is a collaboration by Peter Brook, Jean-Claude Carrière and Marie-Hélène Estienne; and the stars, Jeremy Irons and Ornella Muti, are English and Italian.

At his press show Schlöndorff, disarmingly, asked that his film should not be viewed as Proust, but as a movie. Jean-Claude Carrière puts it differently: "Remembrance of Things Past is one of the great works of literature, and there is no reason why it should not be used as a source like Shakespeare or Balzac. Everyone should feel free to glean there whatever interests him or affects him. Great works of art are bountiful."

This is a fragment of a fragment. It is derived from the section of *Swann's Way* called "Swann in Love", but the action is compressed into 24 hours of Swann's life, a day in which he pursues the object of his obsessive passion, the courtesan Odette de Crécy, and a night in which his jealousy reaches a morbid peak and which ends with his "possessing" her.

The morning afterwards he congratulates himself that the obsession is conquered; the cynical Baron de Charlus inquires when the marriage will be. Taking a passage from elsewhere in the novel cycle, and a hint from Proust ("... this surprising epilogue, written, it seemed, as if from heaven..."), we have a final glimpse of Swann, dying, ostracized by this unwise marriage from the society he loved.

All that has led up to this day's events is merely suggested, in flashbacks, with the seduction in the carriage (the gambit for the whole game of love is provided by an orchid at Odette's breast) as a recurrent motive. The novel provides much of the dialogue; and the film painstakingly realizes Proust's descriptions of places and people and gestures: the dubious habits of the Verdurins' salon, the little embraces that Odette uses to evade Swann's jealous inquiries.

To its credit, the film is not merely a series of illustrations to the book; it provides its own post facto commentaries. The obverse of the precious salon life is revealed in the gross brothel scene; and Swann's predilection for sodomy is seen as concomitant to his erotic morbidity. Servants, too, play a special role in this interpretation of Proust's world: the masters seem like children in the hands of the coachman who watches over Swann, the valet who puts on his shirt or the maid who washes Odette.

The exquisite putrescence of this remembered past is recreated with exemplary care in the marvellous detail of Jacques Swann's sets and Yvonne Sassinot de Neale's breathtaking costumes (set off by some of Carrière's special treasures). Even Nykyst's photography merrily traces the passage of the day, from the scorching midday sun at Bagatelle to the nocturnal chill, as Swann wanders the streets in the humiliation of jealousy. Hans Werner Henze's score follows Proust's own suggestions, with its acknowledgments to Fauré, Franck and Saint-Saëns.

Jeremy Irons is cleverly cast as Swann. He has an ideal face for the period, and his air of adolescent anguish well suits Swann's egotistical obsession with possession. Like the film itself it can only indicate a fragment of Proust's whole; but it is a



Avoiding the jealous inquisition: Jeremy Irons and Ornella Muti in *Swann in Love*

representative fragment. Ornella Muti's Odette is, by contrast, more elusive than, perhaps, is intended. The outstanding performance is Alain Delon's Baron de Charlus, whose vain pursuit of an ideal homosexual love is used as parallel and commentary to Swann's own obsession. Carefully modelled in physical aspect on the original for Charlus, Robert de Montesquiou, with dyed hair and clownish pallor, the creature touches a moment of tragedy with the conflict of ideal and desire. Fanny Ardant is too briefly seen as a cool and ravishing Duchesse de Guermantes.

Nuclear terror looks like being a recurrent theme in films, and *Swann in Love* is no exception. It is one of the most effective examples in the genre to date. It has the added distinction of having been cancelled by a West German television network on the grounds of being too "political" in content. It is set in the near future. An accident on a fast autobahn results in spillage of a load of radioactive waste. The authorities and the army try to hush up the incident and seal off the contaminated area.

The strength of the film is the unmelodramatic realism with which it is done. The people of the contami-

nated village are as ordinary as the soldiers and policemen who dutifully carry out the orders from above. The escalating nightmare is made out of the ordinary processes of bureaucracy and civil defence routines. The neat little hamlet, dominated by its church and led by its mayor, has still a touch of horror in that, too, the idea of nuclear menace as the new Black Death.

The Country Girls had its premiere on television, but it merits second viewing, and the extra asset of a large screen. This is the third time Desmond Davis has adapted Edna O'Brien stories (previously he made *The Girl With Green Eyes* and *I Was Happy Here*); and, with the author as scriptwriter, it is certainly the most successful.

It is an Irish *My Brilliant Career*, the early adventures of a clever country girl from a difficult home (mother dead, father drunk) who undergoes her first experiences of education, of life and of the disappointments of love. The central character is touchingly and unsentimentally played by an excellent newcomer, Maevie Germaine, with Jill Doyle no less engaging as her friend, an incorrigible mix, naughty, mean

yet still likable. Sam Neill (who actually played the equivalent role in *My Brilliant Career*), is her first love, and cleverly imitates the contrivances of the sophisticated paedophile, at once incautious and cowardly. The period — the austere early Fifties — is suggested effortlessly and with bitter-sweet nostalgia.

Rosa von Praunheim (*né Holger Mischwitzki*) is the chronicler of the gay underground of Berlin. City of Lost Souls is his most ambitious effort, a transvestite/transsexual musical, centred on the bizarre staff of a fictitious low dive called the *Hamburger Queen*. It is a curious mixture of tedium, comedy and sub-Warhol episodes, redeemed by the evident affection of the director for his eccentricities and the undoubted talent of Angie Stardust and comic gifts of Jayne County.

There is not much on the other hand, to redeem *High Road to China*, directed by Brian G. Hutton, a period adventure story. The crass script sacrifices all narrative sense or character motivation to the need to hustle the action (including the flying displays in vintage aircraft) from one exotic Yugoslav location to another.

David Robinson

Michael Pennington, after a spell of parts making cruel physical demands, is back at the National in *Venice Preserv'd*: interview by Peter Lewis

Rigorous romantic



Michael Pennington: ruthless transformations

drama, in which he played D. H. Lawrence's Chekhov and Jung, but after two years he was getting restive for the stage again.

He was "really hungry" to get back to it when Yuri Lyubimov arrived to direct his own adaptation of *Crime and Punishment*. Soon he was even hungrier as he dined for the role — not at Lyubimov's suggestion but on his own initiative. "It wasn't because I was overweight. I just thought it would be right. Hunger is a big factor in the story. Raskolnikov is skeletal in every way, in his feelings as well as his body. I couldn't sleep much but I felt very healthy, on top of the world. I understood what people mean by the clarity you experience with fasting."

Before rehearsals began he had made a trip to Moscow to see Lyubimov's work at the Taganka Theatre and discovered the fervent following he

Michael Pennington gets the chance to employ his ruggedly romantic looks in the romantic part of Jaffier, the reluctant revolutionary of *Venice Preserv'd*, which opens at the National Theatre on Thursday, with previews starting tonight. His last stage appearance was as a memorable Hamlet at Stratford in 1980. More recently he has been portraying a haggard Raskolnikov and the broken-down Russian horse, Snider. For both of these transformed his appearance by ruthless physical methods, fasting to lose three stone as Raskolnikov and taking up rigorous ballet training for Tolstoy's decrepit pickled.

Venice Preserv'd is an example of the rare genre. Restoration tragedy, honoured more by being talked of than by being seen in modern times. Its author, Thomas Otway, was accounted by Goldsmith our best "genius in tragedy" after Shakespeare. Like Shakespeare in *Othello*, Otway provided the play with two fine leading parts for men, Jaffier and Pierre (played here by Ian McKellen).

The play has had a chequered career. It opened to brilliant success in 1682 in the aftermath of the Popish Plot, when conspiracy theories, hysteria and witch-hunting were in the air. This topical story of a plot against the Venetian senate mirrored the murky atmosphere of shifting loyalties that Titus Oates had let loose. It was a favourite vehicle for Betterton, Garrick and Kemble and its revolutionary sentiments caused sympathetic riots in the theatre in 1795, 1809 and 1848. After that the play was virtually dropped for a hundred years, until Gielgud revived it under Peter Brook's direction in 1953.

Otway wrote the part of Belvidera for the young leading actress Elizabeth Barry, for whom he nursed an unrequited passion. She was already the mistress of the Earl of Rochester, which might have seemed enough for anyone, and "would hardly condescend to grant him a kiss." "There was an element of wish-fulfilment in the part of Jaffier for Otway," says Michael Pennington. "He wrote very good love scenes — there's a sort of stricken romanticism about them. He followed Mrs Barry around like a spaniel. His letters to her are pitiful to read. There is something in the play that is difficult to resist. In the midst of their political intrigue they are preoccupied with love, honour, loyalty, the concerns of the romantic sensibility."

Pennington's Hamlet was the culmination of many years with the Royal Shakespeare Company, which he originally joined as a spear-carrier straight from Cambridge, where he had played a Macbeth for Trevor Nunn, his contemporary. Against the trend of the time, he gave Hamlet back his nobility of bearing and diction and yet endowed him with dangerous physical energy. "After that I stayed away from the stage for as long as I could stand it. I needed a rest — after seven years banging away on that big stage you wonder if there isn't an easier way of earning a living." The alternative was television

Peter Ackroyd

Theatre

Benefactors
Vaudeville

With *Noises Off* transatlantically celebrated as the funniest play within living memory, Michael Frayn has got reason to turn away from the theatre of laughter, but the direction he has taken in *Benefactors* nevertheless comes as a shock.

Opening in the buoyant Sixties and running downhill all the way, the piece centres on the career and private life of David, an architect professionally slogging his guts out to build a high-rise development in south London, and personally acting the selfless good-neighbour to his problem friends, Colin and Sheila, from over the road. As public opinion turns increasingly against tower blocks, so the neighbours dig deeper into the lives of David and his wife Jane until, by an ultimate reversal, Colin abandons his family to squat on the site and lead demonstrations against his benefactor's threatened skyscrapers.

Put like that, you would expect nothing but a comedy. These are the kind of people we have been laughing at for years in the Marc and Patsy Symonds cartoons, not to mention playwrights of the "how we live now school". But in *Benefactors* they are not held up to ridicule in the expected ironic vein.

Frayn's method of wiping the slate clean consists partly of a shift in narrative focus. Instead of naturalistic action, the story is divided between present-tense events and retrospective story-telling, shared out between the four members of the company. This has the effect of requesting your sympathy for each of them, and substituting an appeal for understanding for the pleasures of suspense and surprise. And thanks in part to the superlative casting of Michael Blakemore's pro-

duction, and Michael Annals's highly-focused set, the approach does succeed in opening up cartoon characters and reconnecting them to the pain that gave birth to comic stereotype in the first place.

Oliver Cotton's David, flashing around the place in his corduroy suit, totally confident that his talent and earning power are serving the interests of the community, suffers a devastating blow when he discovers Colin to be a personal enemy. Fighting with planning committees is the only kind of hostility he can understand.

The disenchantment of his wife is more gradual. Patricia Hodge begins as his totally loyal and limitlessly hospitable ally, and to whatever absurdly disproportionate acts that leads, it is painful to see her charitable features hardening into arid, solitary suspicion.

Tim Pigott-Smith, a destructive force from his first appearance, develops in the opposite direction: insolent and challenging in the early scenes (in a style known to the viewing millions), he expands once he goes into direct attack — and seems at his happiest sitting smiling at the kitchen table while the other three are at each others' throats. Finally, and saddest of all, is Blenda Blethyn's hopeless wife, who converts all disasters into her personal responsibility, without any capacity to put things right.

Benefactors does not compensate for this departure from comedy with a strengthened plot. To make the obvious comparison with Stephen Fagin's *The Hard Shoulder*, there is not even any financial disaster impending. The play is as beautifully written as you would expect; but, despite the performances, the characters remain exiles from the world of satire who have not properly put down roots anywhere else.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Engaging advocacy

YMSO/Adey
St John's

Quietly and doggedly, and with little pomp or circumstance, it is, also, Martin's year. The twenty-fifth anniversary of his death has prompted a month of his symphonies, played by five different youth orchestras at Smith Square. On Wednesday the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra provided the exuberant penultimate concert. Rather like an author whose books have a way of frequenting remainder shops, Martin seems at the moment to need the advocacy of a bargain label; by the score, we are urged, and get the record free or, still better, buy six scores and get a free boxed set. Martin himself, sitting among his own enormous output, cared rather less about its performance and reception. This perhaps is one pointer to its need for external persuasion: its engaging unmemorability only rarely manages to convince us of its real necessity.

The Second Symphony, written in 1943 for the Cleveland Orchestra, pays tribute to their clear, bright textures and lively soloists. Even in the shimmering warmth of the St John's acoustic, the delicate, whirling activity of fragmented ideas, the frolicking interplay of solo and tutti, rather as in a concerto grosso, was whisked

into bracing and stylish life by Christopher Adey. From the oscillating modality of the Andante to the metre-intoxicated march, with its fine trumpet laser beam, it was to the players' credit that, while no distinctive buds or leaves ever appeared, neither was there a moment of dead wood.

It is perhaps not too fanciful to sense within this exhilaration a breeze of New World air, a scent which also permeates the Divisions on a theme for piano (left hand) which Britten composed just three years earlier on the same continent. Marking time, as it were, between the *Canadian Carnival* and the *Michelangelo Sonnets*, it is a prolux yet ceaselessly inventive imaginative wandering through the most unpromising of original themes: a perfect example of the young Britten's assimilation and facetious metamorphosis of the music he loved. For it was unashamedly Ravel's image that flickered, danced, and was teased away in the responsive single hand of Benjamin Hill.

Exile of a different nature had been celebrated earlier: the heady encounter of a northern European with the tingling, taunting air of Italy was captured in a vigorous and properly hedonistic performance of Elgar's Overture in the *Sunlit*.

Hilary Finch

LSO/Hickox
Barbican

Understandably, Beethoven's C major Mass remains somewhat overshadowed by its big brother, the *Missa Solemnis*. But comparison is surely unfair, for while the later work aspires to, and attains, unprecedented spiritual sublimity the earlier one remains solidly earthbound, even vulgar. Perhaps that is due to the fact that it was written in the shadow of Haydn's last masses, and for the same patron. To match Haydn's achievement, all Beethoven could do was brashly to be himself.

Yet unquestionably the C major Mass remains a great work, for all its sometimes outrageous daring. Jarring moments abound: harmonies go wildly astray and often things happen that seem in purely musical terms wholly unrelated to anything. How such a piece manages to retain its momentum is beyond me, but it does.

The London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, directed by Richard Hickox, gave a suitably forthright account, though in the louder passages the sound of the singers very nearly obliterated that of the players — more to do with the acoustic than any serious imbalance of forces. Sometimes the sopranos strayed from the note when under pressure, but the girls' sound they cultivated conveyed an apt enthusiasm. Of the soloists, Sheila Armstrong was in outstanding form, commanding in both musician-

ship and sheer sound quality. In comparison, Helen Watts seemed rather subdued, while Philip Langridge sporadically showed too much tension and occasionally John Tomlinson forced his hugely resonant bass a little too far.

Strauss's *Symphony of Psalms* is a work whose more objective ritualism calls for a slightly more detached performance than it received here. Nevertheless the chorus once again proved themselves usually equal to its demands, and only when the textures became really thin did a sense of insecurity creep in.

Dvorak's attractive *Tu Dum, tu Dum*, the last piece of church music that he wrote, began the evening earnestly with several jubilant thrushes on the timpani. For a while it seemed that we were off on a jolly sleigh ride, with triangle and cymbals adding to the glittery atmosphere. But deeper things soon followed, even if the awe of the third section, "Aeterna fac", could hardly match that contained in Beethoven's masterpiece.

Stephen Pettitt

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David Robinson THE TIMES
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The growth of franchising in Britain is a phenomenon. At a time when people with lump sums in redundancy set off on the road to self-employment, we look at the world of franchising - now estimated to generate £1 billion in annual sales this year

By the end of this year sales through franchised businesses in Britain will have almost doubled over a two-year period, with the number of jobs created by franchising growing by two thirds.

Now that the principles of franchising are more commonly understood and are being applied in new areas - the technique is spreading even to professional services like accountancy - some in the industry believe that the rate of growth will continue at least at this rate.

They argue that in Britain franchising could be at the stage it was in the United States in the 1960s when a surge there in the popularity of franchising took it to almost a third of all US retail sales.

There are some special factors in the United States. Franchising there accounts for a big proportion of petrol sales

whereas in Britain such sales are excluded from franchising statistics because the petrol selling pattern is much more mixed. Car dealerships are included in the US franchise statistics while in Britain, although dealerships were an early form of franchising, they are also excluded from sales estimates.

Franchising sales in Britain consequently account for less than 10 per cent of all retail sales. If the automotive element were added the proportion of sales by franchising could be a fifth or more.

The latest European Franchising Federation estimates place Britain at number three in Europe for franchised businesses sales behind France, with £5.4 billion, and West Germany with £2.18 billion. UK sales are put at £1.295 billion from a total of 16,300 outlets developed by 250 franchisors.

The franchisor is the person or company which licenses the franchisee to use a business format typically with a nationally known name which is supported by advertising and other promotions. Franchising tends to be identified with the fast-food chains among which in Britain Kentucky Fried Chicken and Wimpy are extensive franchise operations. But franchising is now penetrating many other sectors, from plumbing services to dress hire and chocolate and cosmetic sales to tent hire.

France has the most operations, with 450 different franchisors. This reflects a much

bigger penetration of retail sectors by franchising, a pattern which now seems likely to be followed in Britain.

There are around 22,000 franchised outlets in France. Germany has more outlets - some 33,400 - but with about the same number of franchisors as in Britain. The Netherlands franchise market is worth almost as much in annual sales as in Britain, but with only a third of the number of outlets. Belgium has a well developed franchise sector worth some £70m in annual sales.

All the European statistics exclude car franchises and petrol sales.

Franchising

The pattern of franchising growth in Britain emerges from estimates by the British Franchise Association (BFA), which as part of its watchdog role imposes on members a code of ethics. Franchisors with a proven track record become full members and newer franchisors prepared to abide by the code can be placed on a BFA register prior to gaining full membership.

There are now just over 50 full members and another 25 or so on the register.

Some important and well established franchisors do not belong to the BFA, partly because the BFA's territory has tended to be the latest second generation franchises. First generation franchises include the car dealers and the area franchises of companies like Singer, the sewing machine manufacturers, which was one of the pioneers of franchising.

It was in the last century that Singer franchised sales territories. The origins of franchising can be traced back even further to the period nearly 200 years ago when British brewers developed the tied-house system for selling their beer.

The BFA has not been without occasional 'rogue' members in the past but since it was formed in 1977, vetting procedures have been tightened. A franchisor being a BFA member is one indication for the would-be franchisees that they are dealing with an ethical company.

At the end of 1982 BFA members and approved franchisors accounted for £500m in annual sales through 4,200 outlets employing more than 30,000 people. By this year end BFA estimates that sales will be nearing £1 billion annually through 5,000 outlets employing around 50,000.

Tony Duffield BFA's director, said "It is quite conceivable that this rate of growth will continue. There was the period when the wave of redundancies

sent many off with a lump in their pockets but it looks as if this geared up the rate of franchising much less than was thought at the time. Typical redundancy payments were often not enough in themselves to allow too many to buy into franchising."

It is still possible to secure some franchises with a stake of £5,000, especially with some of the service franchises, but a fast-food franchise can for instance cost as much as £300,000.

The average cost of a franchise is now rather more than £30,000. Successful franchising is usually a marriage between a company with a simple, clear-cut business idea that takes the franchising route for quick growth and a keenly motivated would-be small business principal attracted to a proved business format.

Franchises are now offering a 90 per cent chance of commercial success according to Brian Smith, chairman of the BFA, who is managing director of ServiceMaster which franchises carpet, curtain and upholstery cleaning services. It is Mr Smith who has been arguing that with such low failure rates compared with traditional small businesses the franchising sector

should get some tax concessions to offset training costs. There ought to be more specific benefits to franchising built into the many schemes set up by government to aid small businesses, he has also argued.

With reputable franchisors the failure rate in franchised businesses is probably not more than 2.5 per cent, according to Martin Mendelsohn, a lawyer who has specialised in franchising in Britain. This compares with an overall new businesses failure rate in the first five years of a business's life of some 40 per cent.

If all franchised businesses and not just BFA members are taken into account the employment generated by franchising is already probably in excess of 100,000 in terms of direct employment. If companies involved with franchised businesses, as in providing supplies or distribution, are taken into account franchising in Britain may well be generating about 200,000 jobs overall, he estimates.

He added: "There is scope for much more franchising development in Britain. Retailing is relatively unexploited."

Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

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Getting the right advice

An offshoot of Britain's growing franchising industry are specialist consultants who largely concentrate on advising companies planning to franchise an idea. Some also offer advice to would-be franchisees, those trying to decide whether to take up a franchise offer.

Among the consultants are Caltan Associates, the Centre for Franchise Marketing and Midlands-based Franchise and Marketing Management.

The best consultants have had experience as franchisors at management level and have the approval of the British Franchise Association and the franchising departments of the banks. A consultant should also carry a satisfactory level of professional indemnity insurance, say leading consultants who point out that some so-called consultants have sprung up who are not much more than franchise salesmen.

Big companies are increasingly looking to franchising as a way to exploit the full potential of some of their subsidiary operations. It can cut big company overheads and inject the sort of motivation which only comes from a franchisee working hard on his own business.

It is one way for a big company to retain entrepreneurially minded employees who might otherwise leave the company - a franchisee is likely to earn more than a manager at an equivalent level in the company.

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For further details please write to the Franchise Development Manager, Owers (UK) Ltd, DEPT. H&B, Linda House, 64 Gouda Street, Luton LU2 2BB. Tel: 0455 220. Telex: 0455 220. Fax: 0455 220.

All that you need to know

Geoffrey Golzen guides would-be entrepreneurs through the pros and cons of setting up

When the growing fast food franchise Spud U Like opened its first outlet in Edinburgh in the mid 1970s, the start-up costs were around £100,000. For a franchisee today, says its managing director Tony Schiesser, it would be about £40,000. The reason for this huge drop is the experience they have acquired in the last eight years about what it takes to open a fast food place.

They now have precise ideas about what sort of equipment is needed, how the counter areas should be fitted out and what kind of staff and inventory levels are required from the start. They also now have 40 franchises and this gives Spud U Like much greater purchasing leverage than they had a few years ago.

This illustrates the two main characteristics of franchising. First the franchisor passes on to the franchisee the know-how that has been acquired in running at least one pilot operation. Second, the franchisee, though operating largely as an independent unit, gets some of the purchasing muscle of a larger organisation.

Taking up a franchise is a cost-effective way of starting your own business, but it would be a mistake to think of it as a cheap one. Spud U Like's £40,000 does not include the cost of acquiring premises and initial stock. Depending on location that might boost the figure by 50 per cent or more - and they are at the cheap end of the spectrum. The start-up costs

on a Wimpey franchise now run to at least £300,000 and the average for this sector is well into six figures.

At the cheaper end are the so-called job franchises that can be run from home. All that is needed is the equipment the franchisor supplies you with and, probably, some form of transport. Typical job franchises are Home-Tune (tuning car engines) or Servicemaster (domestic and office cleaning). Here the start-up costs are around £10,000.

Included in this sum is the initial fee charged by the franchisor. That is one element in what he gets for passing on his experience. The other and more important source of revenue is in the form of a monthly royalty paid by the franchisee. It is averaged around 10 per cent on turnover. The initial fee also varies widely: between 5 per cent and 25 per cent of projected start-up costs.

The banks say that it should not be more than 15 per cent of these costs. Barclays, Natwest and Lloyds are now active in the franchise field. Franchising has a much better record of success than ordinary small business start-ups.

There are at least 300 franchises now on the market, which range from the untired to the dubious. Even if an intending franchisee does not need bank finance he or she should certainly ask the bank's opinion on the proposition under consideration.



Fast-movers: Max McHardy is vice-president and marketing director of Budget Rent-A-Car, which now has 100 hire outlets in Britain; Virginia Stourton runs a chain specialising in interior decoration

Vital factors

"As Joe's print shop I wouldn't have had much credibility. But the major print franchises have become household names," is how one former printing executive explains his decision to become a franchisee, even though he had the experience to start up on his own.

Credibility is an important factor in a new business. Getting hold of a good site can also be a problem. Money is not the only thing to be taken into account. Property owners like to let to established names because they are a magnet to others of similar status.

Chiefly, however, the attraction of a franchise is that it is a tested recipe for business success. The projections and cash flow forecasts produced by the franchisor are - or should be - based on results achieved by his pilot outlets and by other franchisees. If you follow the format, so the argument runs, you will achieve equally good results.

It will be apparent from this that although franchisors stress that taking up a franchise is exactly like running your own business, this is not quite the case. Its success depends on its being a cloning operation in which everything from the design of the letterheads to the content and price of the product or service is laid down by the franchisor.

There are also many questions to ask the franchisor. He gets a royalty based on turnover - not your profitability. You need to be sure that you will not be dragged willy-nilly into promotional schemes that boost the former at the expense of the latter. And what exactly will he do for his royalty? Will he spend at least some of it on advertising, for instance, and on a continuing programme of research and development to fend off the opposition.

Has he got the management strength to administer the franchise and come to your help over, say, problems with suppliers? Does the product or service itself have distinctive features that give it a slot in the marketplace - and one that can be protected? Does it have continuing appeal or is based on a fad?

In the end the best people to talk to are other franchisees. See as many of them as you can and ask them whether their results are living up to the franchisor's promises. The appearance of the actual outlets can be revealing too.

The franchisor's view

If you have a sound and demonstrably profitable business concept, why franchise it rather than reap the full benefits yourself? McDonald, the most successful franchise in

the US, is running all its 134 UK fast food restaurants as company-owned outlets. The reason is that they can afford to do so.

But for most companies financing rapid growth, especially if it involves acquiring central sites, presents high cash flow problems. That is why even a company as large as Booker McConnell have chosen to franchise the Holland & Barrett health food chain - an example being closely watched by a number of other retailers, mindful of the fact that franchising now accounts for over 30 per cent of the retail market in the US.

Traditionally, however, it has been thought of as an ideal way for a small to medium-sized business to grow quickly.

It retains some of the advantages of establishing your own network, particularly economies of scale on such matters as national advertising and centralised administration. At the same time it requires a low level of investment, mainly in training and back-up facilities. Above all it removes the headache and cost of finding, motivating and supervising staff.

That is the theory. In practice it has been found that choosing franchisees is every bit as difficult as choosing managers. He (or she - there are quite a number of women franchisees) needs to be an entrepreneur, but not one so independently minded as to resist the uniformity of method and presentation which franchising imposes. "The ideal franchisee is a good number two," says one experienced franchisor. Here again the banks play a useful part in assessing for general suitability the prospective franchisees who come to them for loans.

It is equally important that the franchisor himself stays in touch with the marketplace. Nearly all of them operate one or two company-owned outlets as a test bed for new ideas and products. Piloting is an essential preliminary to launching a franchise at all and a condition of BFA membership. By no means all good business ideas are suitable for franchising and some franchisees that have been successful in one country have not travelled well to another. There is a cultural dimension to consumer behaviour - for instance in the Americans' passion for continuing 'sales', however bogus.

Apart from that it has been found that the cloning process only lends itself to simple, rather mechanical business concepts - certainly not to ones that depend on flair. For this reason it is pizzas that give an international flavour to the fast food market, rather than haute cuisine.

The legal aspect

One major franchisor says that he regards his relationship with franchisees as being like a partnership. In the legal sense

there are, of course, vast differences between the two arrangements but they do have some vital characteristics in common.

Franchising is a meeting of mutual interests: if the franchisee makes a success of the business, the franchisor's revenue will increase proportionately. It will also be proof that the idea works and it will therefore help him to recruit further franchisees. The converse of that is that the growing strength of the franchise will feed back to the franchisor - for instance in enabling the franchisor to negotiate better terms for suppliers.

The third party in all this is the customer. What he is being offered must be competitive in price and quality. Unless these conditions are met, the franchise is unlikely to succeed.

The document in which these commercial forces are balanced out is the franchise agreement. It covers four main issues.

Site and territory

The franchisee will be given a "privileged" territory in which

the franchisor agrees not to allocate other franchises. This however cannot protect him from competition from similar businesses. The franchisor should have conducted a proper market survey covering all aspects of viability in that particular site.

Fees and royalty

Both of these should be in line with prevailing rates for similar franchises. If they are very much lower, look out for hidden extras like excessive markups on supplies or equipment. It might also mean that the franchise is not yet properly established.

Obligations

The franchisor must provide proper training in the running of the business and continuing back-up to deal with problems.

The franchisee may be obliged to buy from nominated sources. If so, it should be at competitive rates and with guaranteed delivery. He or she will certainly be obliged to conduct the business on lines laid down by the franchisor.

On a pathway to growth

From professions to pets, there may be a new way of operating a business, explains Derek Harris

The sector most recently penetrated by franchising has been professional services. Accountancy, veterinary services and insurance broking are three areas so far involved.

The Accounting Information Development Service (Aids) is Britain's first franchised accountancy service. Mike Sallinger, chairman and managing director of the London-based Aids organisation, which now has 18 franchisees set out on his path to growth through a chance conversation with Edward Young, a former chairman of the British Franchise Association.

Mr Young is chairman and managing director of one of the most successful franchising groups in Britain. Young's Franchising Group, which since it introduced from France the Pronuptia bridal wear franchise operation, has from 1976 grown from ten shops with some £400,000 annual turnover to more than 100 outlets with an expected turnover this year of some £16m.

What Aids offers is a comparatively low cost computerised accounting service to small businesses, with the franchisee or as the local man on the spot to liaise with companies and interpret the results, effectively offering a company doctor service that allows a small business to keep track of financial progress. Aids has a mainframe computer available for preparing clients' accounts monthly.

The Sallinger aim is to recruit 200 franchisees in five years. He expects to have 40 by the end of this year with another 40 recruited next year.

An Aids franchise costs £5,000 outside London and twice that in central London. Franchisees pay Aids 10 per cent in royalties and 40 per cent of the selling price of computer-processed work.

An unusual franchise operation, given the almost total restraints on advertising within the profession, is that of Sussex-based Astro Group Services. It franchises management services to the veterinary profession, providing a total back-up in managerial, advisory and computer services. There are now seven veterinary practices involved and it is expected that one or two will be added annually.

In insurance broking Manchester-based Swinton Insurance has launched a franchising operation. Swinton's operates countrywide but concentrates on the North of England and to selected candidates is prepared to franchise its name, house style and effective reputation. The first franchisees appointed were all insurance-trained, either

with insurance companies or other insurance brokers.

An initial investment is necessary of £18,000, of which £7,000 must be in cash together with £4,000 of working capital. Swinton subsequently takes a percentage of turnover and commissions.

Other sectors recently penetrated by franchising are cosmetics and chocolates. In the past four years Yves Rocher, with a speciality in French perfume, has grown to a franchise chain of more than 25 outlets. By the end of this year the number of outlets is expected to rise to around 50.

The chocolate sales franchisees are those of J W Thornton, formerly of Sheffield where it still had a factory but now based at Belper in Derbyshire where there are further production facilities. Where towns are sufficiently large Thornton's have their own shop outlets and there are 150 of these, mostly north of a line between the River Severn and the Wash, although there are some outlets recently opened in the south of England, including one in London's Covent Garden.

The variety of franchises is constantly growing. Identical based in the West Midlands is a franchise for etching vehicle registration numbers on windcreens as a security measure. IO Tools in Bristol systemises sales of tools for the garage trade while Snap-On Tools at Kettering distributes automotive hand tools.

Mrs Virginia Stourton runs Colour Counsellors, a chain of more than 50 outlets which specialise in interior decoration advice, with colour catalogues, samples of wallpapers, carpets and fabrics. Additions to the chain are now running at around a dozen a year.

A service concept imported from the United States at the beginning of last year, offering a cleaning system for increasingly fitted in Britain by Clentech, part of the Conder group. There are 24 franchisees so far licensed.

The Wimpy fast-food chain, now part of United Biscuits, expects to add another 20 more outlets this year. It now has 420 including 55 of the bigger establishments set up as a re-marketing operation to meet the growing challenge of the American chains like McDonalds (not yet franchising in Britain) and Burger King (which is considering franchising here). Only about 20 outlets, mostly bigger ones, are operated by Wimpy itself, the rest being franchised.

Budget Rent-A-Car now has 100 car-hire outlets in Britain, 100 of them franchised and up from around 70 at the depth of the recession.

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Shares bounce backACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, March 26. Dealings end today, 5 Contango Day, April 9. Settlement Day, April 16
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FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	512.79 (507.47)
500 SHARE INDEX	550.49 (556.55)
EARNINGS YIELD	9.75% (9.81%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.28% (4.31%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.62 (12.53)
ALL SHARE INDEX	518.08 (516.28)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.43% (4.45%)

FT STOCK INDICES	
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	82.81 (82.80)
FIXED INTEREST	86.62 (86.52)
INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY	876.0 (857.8)
GOLD MINES	655.4 (645.9)
ORDINARY DIVIDEND YIELD	4.41% (4.45%)
EARNINGS YIELD	9.83% (10.02)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	11.11 (11.12)
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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Good times, better times for Thomson

The International Thomson Organisation yesterday unveiled a rich store of figures, gave itself a pat on the back, and exuded a "new confidence" that could well be expressed in major deal within 18 months. On a sale gain of just under 13 per cent, trading profits have risen 35 per cent to £155m and earnings 47 per cent to £76m. True, something like £70m has been cut from costs by the scrapping of UK supplementary petroleum duty and earnings were boosted by £6m of exchange rate gains. But the company's advance looks to have fuelled by a successful strategy, not fortune. That's the board's view but it does stand up to analysis, particularly since the notes accompanying the figures spell out just how strongly placed in virtually all divisions the ITO now is. UK travel companies achieved record trading profits, while US publishing and information interests pushed up trading profits by some 57 per cent. Thomson Regional Newspapers showed "significant" gains in profits.

The great ITO gusher, Thomson's North Sea oil interests, seems to have become even more lucrative. Planning assumptions about North Sea oil may have been too cautious. Recoverable reserves have been bumped up by some 123 million barrels, worth perhaps, a present value of \$4 per barrel.

The cumulative effect is to transform oil under the sea into money in the bank. Last year, with cash and bank term deposits swollen by a £45m placing, ITO's bank balance rose from £61m to £141m. Net debt is trimmed from £72m to £31m, or just 9 per cent of equity. Most of the remaining debt is funded.

With Thomson's Reuters stake in the balance sheet for virtually nothing, it is worth 5 per cent of whatever Stock Market valuation is placed on Reuters, it would be surprising if Thomson were not clearing the decks for rapid fire on the acquisition front. A one for one share split lightens the shares, for action.

ITO has made no secret of its ambitions to expand in the United States. So far it has spent some \$360m, buying US information and publishing interests; last year these acquisitions generated nearly \$60m in trading profits. A measure of the group's interest in the US, and its underlying corporate strength, is the decision to write off £15m of accelerated expenditure, or double the 1982 figure.

With cash flow now running at around £150m and debt virtually reduced to zero, Thomson is well on the way to transforming finite gains from North Sea oil into long term and high earning interests in the USA. (but not, one imagines into national newspapers in Britain). The shares put on 30p yesterday to 850p.

launch its ID and will not be in a position to talk about a possible partner for the international side for a further six weeks.

Among the few leaders will be William De Broe Hill. This broker will be operating an international dealership, dealing in South African Gold shares and claiming to be the first to set up an ID.

Even so, the firm will not initially be taking positions, but offering a matching service if stock comes on offer. Leading the team of the firm, which grew from French roots in 1869, will be Mr Yves Gachoud who has been with them for 30 years. As part of the team will be Mr Richard Wilson, known on the market floor for his skill dealing in mining stocks.

It is expected that Grieson, Grant will be ready on the first day under the direction of Mr Derek Millard, but the firm is not expected to compete with jobbers.

Recently Kitcat & Aitken, the brokers, where Mr Jacob Rothschild's Charterhouse J Rothschild holds a 29.9 per cent stake, announced earlier this week that it intends to form a similar subsidiary. Monday's relaxation of rules governing the dealing in overseas securities represents the first of a number of changes brought in by the Stock Exchange as part of reforms promised to the Government last summer in return for exemption from the provisions of the Restrictive Practices Act.

If this is to be typical of the London market's response to change, it does not bode well. But it could be, of course, that the brokers set little store by this kind of compromise and will join in the game more earnestly once the firms are allowed to take on a proper dual-capacity role across the full range of their activities and not be forced to take a piecemeal approach both to their internal structures and international networks.

The new class of entrepreneur

No one today is in the least surprised that a management based consortium is a prime contender for the privatization of British Rail's Sealink enterprise. That is itself shows how far management buyouts have come since the denationalization of National Freight snatched the headlines.

In a sense, the National Freight case was seen at the time as a good piece of propaganda for the Government, showing that privatization of state enterprises could involve not merely senior managers but also turn employees down the line into concerned investors in their own business. Since then, the striking business success of that particular case has helped to make the whole idea of management buyouts both realistic and respectable, in such stark contrast to the failure of the workers cooperative movement to get off the ground. And the participation of National Freight in the Sealink management consortium can only strengthen its position.

But the privatization element is only the tip of the iceberg. Management buyouts have saved many a workforce from the dole queue and many a multinational from shame of closure in the depression. But the phenomenon is not merely a creature of the current restructuring of British industry, according to the new edition of the *Economist Intelligence Unit's* bible on the subject. They have become established as "part of a much wider phase in the evolution of the structure of capitalist enterprises, upon which the UK (and other Western economies) appear to be embarking", says the EIU.

The buyouts have genuinely turned a lot of middle managers into a new class of entrepreneur, giving them a previously undreamed-of way of accumulating capital and improving the morale of a group whose status was tending to sag, as operators of peripheral outfits in huge corporations. More and more banks and special investment companies and middlemen have come into the field and have changed the whole attitude to management buyouts.

Unlike those who start new businesses, for instance, the manager turned boss is now not usually required to put up his house and family car as collateral. Indeed banks are now beginning to see this as a useful encumbrance which merely adds to anxiety rather than the lender's financial security. The key to success is the manager's incentive to show he can do it better than head office.

Perhaps the most remarkable lesson of this new wave of British capitalism, though, is that it has been achieved in the face of legal and tax hurdles rather than on a cushion of state subsidies.

Not with a bang but a whimper

The Stock Exchange's first formal step towards full-blown, dual capacity is due to take place on Monday, when member firms will be permitted to operate international dealerships. But, with only three days to go, it appears that the new era will dawn in a cloud of hesitancy and not a little dismay.

For the first time on Monday brokers may take a position and deal in international shares, rather as stockjobbers do now in the UK. They will also be able to charge a negotiated commission and not be restricted by the UK's current rates of fixed commissions on equities. But only a handful are ready on the starting block.

With creditable candour, the jobbers Akroyd and Smithers said last night that it could not get its act together in time and Akroyd and Smithers' International Dealership would not start until April 30.

Akroyd's more ambitious planned link with stockbroker Rowe and Pitman for an International Dealership capitalized at £17m will not be ready until October 1. Failure to get the necessary office space and the right phones connected in time are the culprits, it explains.

Hoare Govett, one of the biggest broking firms, has made no formal announcement, but has its ID in place and will not use it as a market-making company. The group may take a position in shares offered to it, but will not aggressively take the jobbers' market-making role. This might evolve over the next six to nine months. Cazenove, another powerful broking force, has already said it will not be aggressively touting for business, but instead will run a more sedate matching service.

And Quilter Goodison, the broker, whose senior partner is Stock Exchange chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison will also miss the "off". It will not be ready to

BP calls for tax incentives

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Sir Peter Walters, the chairman of BP, has called on world governments to provide tax incentives to make the risky business of oil exploration more attractive.

Sir Peter confirms poor results from BP's drilling programme in China and disappointing results from the expensive Makkah project in Alaska, in the company's annual report.

"I mention these disappointments rather than our many successes because they highlight a factor often overlooked - namely, risk."

The annual report confirms a 35 per cent increase in profits to £970m. It also shows that BP has lost \$1.5 billion of its \$1.5 billion of oil exploration since 1982.

Average earnings by employees have risen from just over £10,000 to nearer £15,000 a year. However, with the figure being affected by the weakness of sterling against the dollar, the true rate of wage increase is between 6 and 7 per cent in the United Kingdom and 7 and 8 per cent overseas. Sir Peter's salary has increased from £172,770 in 1982 to £183,134 in 1983.

The report and accounts also show that BP employees earning more than £30,000 a year owe £3.9m in company loans at a minimum rate of 3 per cent.

North Sea exploration will be stepped up this year with more money being spent on south-east Forties, Swaps, and the ULA field.

Some further repayments of borrowings may take place this year. BP had unused borrowing facilities of £4,100m at the year-end. Of this, £1,600m was available to Sohio. Capital spending plans for this year amount to £5,300m.

Big demand for Delfont issue

By Philip Robinson

Potential investors eager for a stake in Lord Delfont's First Leisure Corporation have oversubscribed the 6 million share issue.

The company confirmed yesterday through its merchant bankers that the issue has been oversubscribed but the basis of the allotment will only be revealed today.

The company is raising £10m from the issue of the new shares at 180p each. Strong demand was expected for the shares and a premium of possibly 20p or 30p is likely when the shares start to trade.

The cash from the offer for sale will leave the company with almost no gearing. Dealings are expected to start next Thursday. Asset backing is 156p and the market capitalization at the offer price is 44.1m.

The market believes Lord Delfont is coming to the market as a run up in making a significant acquisition, possibly using shares to pay.

Fears of tighter Fed stance as banks raise prime rate

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Leading American banks yesterday raised their prime lending rates by half a percentage point to 12 per cent amid fears that the Federal Reserve Board has moved decisively to tighten credit policy.

But in London, Mr Beryl Sprinkel, US Treasury Undersecretary, said he saw no evidence that the Fed was taking a more restrictive line and predicted that the dollar would continue to decline modestly over the year.

The markets took the prime rate news in their stride. It had been expected for several days after a sharp increase in the key Fed funds rate - the rate at which banks lend each other in the short-term money market - to about 10 3/4 per cent.

Since the last prime rate increase less than three weeks ago, money market rates have risen by about half a point, putting pressure on the banks to make a move.

First National Bank of Chicago was the first to announce the prime rate increase, closely followed by the other big banks.

The dollar gained in late trading to finish in London almost unchanged against the Deutschmark at DM2.6168. The pound, pulled along in the slipstream, also strengthened against European currencies and the yen, with a 10 point rise against the dollar to \$1.4340.

There is great confusion about Fed policy, with most analysts now looking to the Fed's official discount rate for a clear signal of intent. A rise in the discount rate - still 8.5 per cent and clearly out of line with market rates - would make Fed tightening explicit. But in the midst of the presidential election campaign, and with the international debt crisis still rumbling in the background, the Fed is under pressure not to make an overt move which would hurt confidence worldwide.

Most analysts, however, believe American interest rates will be higher by the end of the year, with the risk that a continuing strong dollar will force other countries to keep their rates up.

The Fed fears that the runaway American recovery may trigger a fresh surge in inflation. But Mr Sprinkel said yesterday that he expected growth to "taper" gently over the coming months.

Mr Sprinkel's optimism on the world economic outlook this year, which he said would be a helpful background for the summit of heads of government in London in June, was reinforced by reports yesterday that the German government is confident of strong economic growth this year while Japan is expected to revise its 4 per cent growth forecasts upwards.

Mr Sprinkel repeated his view that the huge American budget deficit was the cause of high US interest rates. But in Frankfurt, Herr Karl Otto Poehl, president of the German Central Bank, said uncontrolled US deficits could cause a dollar collapse.

BP calls for tax incentives

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

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Claims force 5% rise in ECGD premiums

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Thousands of British companies will have to pay more for export insurance as a result of a 5 per cent rise in premium rates announced yesterday by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

ECGD, which covers exporters against not being paid, is raising rates because rapidly rising claims have exhausted cash reserves.

For the first time in 30 years the department is having to borrow from the Government's consolidated fund, a move unpopular with the Treasury because it pushes up the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

ECGD's overdraft at the end of February, estimated at £40m at the end of March and expected to continue to rise.

The 5 per cent across-the-board increase is supplemented by new surcharges on business in riskier territories, surcharges for exporters with bad claims records and reductions in discounts on extended terms business. These will push the overall rise in the department's income to 8.5 per cent or £25m.

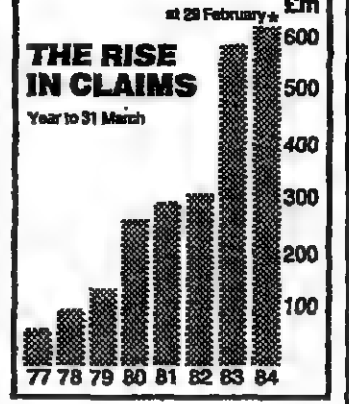
The bulk of ECGD's business is on run-off-the-mill exports sold on less than six months' credit. More than 10,000 policyholders will be affected on his type of business.

Mr Jack Gill, ECGD secretary, said: "These increases in premium income are the lowest possible to meet ECGD's need to be self-supporting over the longer term."

Officials also pointed out that export agencies in other countries were facing similar problems and were putting up rates, in many cases by much more.

In the last two years alone claims have more than doubled from £304m in the year to end-March 1982 to £618m in the 11 months to the end of February. Nor is there any sign of improvement. The numerous debt reschedulings in Latin America have had a big impact.

Nigeria is one of the big problems still facing the department. It has insured exports worth between £600m to £800m on which it has been having to pay out claims, although it should be able to recoup the money once a refinancing agreement is signed.



Hill Samuel to expand in Australia

Hill Samuel's merchant banking subsidiary in Australia has received conditional approval from the Australian Government to operate as a commercial bank under a deal which would reduce the parent company's voting interest to 10 per cent.

Many foreign banks have long been keen to move into the Australian banking market but earlier hopes that some foreign banks would be allowed to have not been realized. Because of this Hill Samuel is working on proposals which would involve reducing its own interest in the merchant bank so it can move into commercial banking.

Mr Christopher Castleman, chief executive of Hill Samuel, said yesterday the plans were still at an early stage and Hill Samuel would be looking for new Australian investors to come into the venture.

It would involve setting up a new bank called, Macquarie Bank which would acquire nearly all the interests of Hill Samuel Australia.

Although Hill Samuel would be restricted to a small voting interest in the venture, it is believed that it may retain a larger interest in the group's profits of between 25 to 30 per cent.

The Australian banking market is undergoing change at the moment because of deregulation and the expected licensing of more banks which are likely to increase competition.

Recovery by shares

After four days in the doldrums, shares yesterday recovered a little of the enthusiasm so evident at the time of the Budget. The FT 30 shares index recorded a 9.2 points gain to 867. But prices did not hold their best level, falling in mid-afternoon when the index showed an 11.4 points gain.

Trading was fairly active, with near-time buying ahead of the coming three-week account creating much of the activity. But the completion of end-year profit taking and less selling also helped stimulate sentiment.

On the foreign exchange market, sterling's international basket value was unchanged at 80. The pound recorded modest progress against the US dollar at \$1.4332.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1102.2 up 8.6
(days high: 1104.4 Low: 1097.9)
FT Index: 867.0 up 9.2
FT Cites: 82.81 up 0.28
FT All Shares: 519.08 up 2.8
Bergsma: 51.140
Datasearch USM Leaders
Index: 112.25 up 0.05
New York Dow Jones Industrial
Average (latest): 1150.65 up 2.09
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index
10,922.93 down 9.10
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index
1033.57 up 50.45
Amsterdam: 172.2 down 0.5
Sydney: AO Index: 775.5 down 4.8
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index
1018.0 down 0.2
Brussels: General Index 150.0 up
1.54
Paris: CAC Index 167.6 up 1.4

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE	
Sterling	\$1.4340 up 10pts
Index	80.00 up 0.1
DM	2.7825 up 0.0125
FFr	11.55 up 0.0250
Yen	324.00 up 1.00
Dollar	Index: 128.8 down 0.2
DM	2.6168 down 0.0002
NEW YORK LATEST	
Sterling	\$1.4280
Dollar	DM 2.6320

INTERNATIONAL

ECU	DM 5.95423
SDR	DM 7.41482

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:	
Bank base rates	8%
Finance houses base rate	9%
Discount market loans week fixed	8%
3 month interbank	8 3/4% - 9%
Euro-currency rates:	
3 month dollar	10 3/4% - 11%
3 month DM	15 3/4% - 15 1/2%
3 month Ffr	13 3/4% - 13%
US rates:	
Bank prime rate	11.50 - 12.00
Fed funds 10 1/4%	
Treasury long bond	100 3/4% - 102 3/4%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export	
Finance Scheme IV Average	
reference rate for interest period	
March 7, 1984 to April 3, 1984	
Inclusive:	8.976 per cent

International Thomson Organisation Limited

Suite 2206, Box 45, 20 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 3R3, Canada.

Group results in brief

	1983	1982
	£ million	£ million
Sales	1,503.5	1,334.1
Trading profit	154.8	114.6
Earnings	75.7	51.5
(before extraordinary items)		
Earnings per share	53.8p	37.0p
(before extraordinary items)		

A year of high growth

- Sales at £1,503.5 million were 12.7% higher than in 1982. Trading profit at £154.8 million was 35.1% higher and earnings before extraordinary items at £75.7 million showed a 47.0% increase.
- Dividends during the year were increased by 15.6% expressed in US dollars (in sterling terms 28.1%).
- In October, seven million new shares were placed with institutions in the UK, raising £45.0 million. Simultaneously the Thomson family reduced its total holding in International Thomson, selling 6.4 million shares to Canadian investors.
- Our UK travel companies achieved record trading profits and increased their market shares.
- In the US our information and publishing interests increased their trading profit by some 57% over the previous year.
- By the end of 1983, the total acquisition costs of our US information and publishing interests were some US\$360 million and in 1983 they achieved overall trading profit, before accelerated development, of US\$59.2 million.
- Thomson Regional Newspapers in the UK achieved a significant improvement in trading profit.
- Production from the North Sea Piper and Claymore fields, in which the Company has a 20% interest, was maintained at higher than forecast levels and the Piper estimated recoverable reserves have been upgraded by DeGolyer and McNaughton from 708 million barrels to 837 million barrels.
- The Company has acquired an 8% stake in the North Sea Balmoral field, which has estimated recoverable oil reserves of 70 million barrels and from which production is scheduled for early 1987.
- A one for one share split will be proposed at the Annual Meeting on May 16, 1984.

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ABP profits up to £14.5m

● Associated British Ports, sold to the private sector early last year, has reported pretax profits of £14.5m £5.5m up from (£8.9m after allowing for capital reconstruction) the year before. Turnover increased by only £2m to £154.4m for the year to December 1983. The final dividend of 5.5p makes 8.5p. *Tempos page 21*

● Glyndwr International made pretax profits of £21.8m compared with the previous year. Sales increased from £444.3m to £487m. The board is recommending payment of a final dividend of 5.4p a share. *Tempos page 21*

W Morrison Supermarkets has increased its pretax profits for the year to January 28 to £9,991, up from £8,658m. *Tempos page 21*

Tokyo offer on training

The European Commission is looking for 35 young executives to join a sponsored 18-month training programme designed to improve their companies' export trading with Japan.

The package, worth about £25,000, includes a 12-month intensive language course in Japan. Up to eight places should be available to British companies.

● Company-owned stocks of crude oil have dwindled to their lowest absolute level since the International Energy Agency started keeping track of them in 1975, according to the IEA's latest monthly oil market report.

Vauxhall sales slow as BL gears up

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Vauxhall's storming progress in the British car market, particularly with sales of its Cavalier, was checked in March as BL's market share surged and that of Ford improved.

The change in fortunes appears largely to reflect the pattern of special promotions adopted by manufacturers including increases in dealer incentives.

An intense period of promotion by Vauxhall eased at the beginning of March and by the end of the month, General Motors' market share, including the sales of its Opel range from West Germany, dropped from the 23 per cent of February to 15.64 per cent, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

But with BL still heavily promoting its range, its market share rose from 16 per cent in February to nearly 21 per cent in March. Its Austin/MG Metro was the top selling car last month and the Maestro was at number six compared with eighth position in February.

The BL challenge will grow later this month when it launches its LM11 model - expected to be called the Montego - which will compete with the Cavalier and Ford's Sierra.

Takeaway fight over VAT

3,000 find themselves on the hot spot

By Derek Harris

About 3,000 small businesses are threatened by closure because of the Chancellor's intention to levy value added tax from May 1 on hot takeaway food. This is one conclusion of research mounted by the newly-formed Hot Takeaway Group (HOTAG) whose members range from the National Federation of Fish Friers to fast-food chains like Kentucky Fried Chicken whose franchisees are all small businesses. Chinese and Indian takeaway are also HOTAG members.

John Barnes, HOTAG chairman, who is managing director of Kentucky Fried Chicken in Britain, says the VAT move is seen as the biggest threat so far to the takeaways, with thousands of jobs likely to be lost as big chains cut back on labour and independents go out of business.

Thornton Baker, the accountants, are still working on an analysis of the research which HOTAG hopes to present to Nigel Lawson next Tuesday, when HOTAG is planning a day of demonstrations. Their hope is to influence the Chancellor before the Finance Bill embodying the VAT changes goes through Parliament.

Fish and chips and Chinese outlets, most of them independent, are most at risk from falling sales. Sales reductions of 10 per cent to 20 per cent are already being reported because of consumer misconceptions about the May 1 timing.

These two forms of outlets account for 70 per cent of all hot food takeaways which are estimated in total at more than 18,000. Despite the growth in other fast-food outlets dispensing anything from hamburgers to kebabs, fish and chip shops still account for the largest slice in the fast food industry's annual sales of £1.2 billion. Fish and chip outlet sales are put at £500m, with 90 per cent of them in food taken away from the shops.

An important distinction drawn in the research is between the sit-down restaurant element in fast food selling that already attracts VAT and the take-away element which until now has not. In Chinese outlets,

which account for £175m of turnover, 86 per cent of sales are takeaways.

The least affected sector should be hamburger outlets, accounting for £325m in turnover, where only 37 per cent of sales are estimated to be takeaways.

Kentucky Fried Chicken, the biggest takeaway chain with 360 outlets, of which 150 are small business franchisees, has shelved an expansion plan for a further 350 outlets which would have created 10,000 more jobs.

Consumer groups most likely to cut back on takeaway food buying are the unemployed, the retired, and students. Some areas of the country will be particularly hit by sales declines, with the Midlands standing to lose a quarter of its sales and the north of England up to a fifth or more.

A 14 per cent sales decline would reduce average net profit margins before tax in a small fish and chip shop to an extremely low level. Profits at present would be £5,250, but a 14 per cent sales decline would bring the figure down to £2,820; a one-fifth sales loss would typically leave a family with only £1,750.

HOTAG claims that rather than generating an extra £200m in tax revenue the VAT impost, because of closures and job losses, is likely to yield at most £172m and possibly as little as £160m.

Another question is how far some takeaway businesses may be able to avoid payment of VAT. A business might well be able to de-register for VAT by splitting into two completely separate businesses. There could be more switching to cold food sales. It looks as if there are going to be increasing complications over the definition of what constitutes hot food, which is being defined by the Government as above ambient air temperature.

But lawyers are suggesting that ambient air temperature strictly means the temperature of the surrounding air and that could be measured as air surrounding a dish in a container which could contain air hotter than the dish itself.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Business in a fun pursuit

Business beckons in Arabia

The Government is considering subsidising travel costs of British companies visiting Saudi Arabia to investigate the possibility of establishing factories there, John Lawless writes.

The move to get more companies, particularly medium-sized undertakings, to set up manufacturing joint ventures in what is by far Britain's biggest export market in the Middle East has the full backing of Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

His officials are confident that trade relations with Saudi Arabia are at an all-time high. An unusually large team of 35 Saudi officials returned home last week as a result of four days of talks in London last week.

At present, several thousand businessmen have their travel costs partly funded by the British Overseas Trade Board (at, say, £400 per visit), when groups go on sales missions or take part in trade fairs. The British manufacturing presence in Saudi Arabia does not compare with those of its main trading rivals, the US, Japan and West Germany. Although there are up to 1,000 joint ventures there, they are mainly in the commercial or financial sectors, with up to 40 factories established or under consideration. ICI recently announced its first investment there with a comparatively small factory to make raw materials for rigid foam goods.

The Saudi Industrial Development Fund has substantial cash available, and will fund up to half the start-up costs. Finance is offered to cover pre-operating costs, plant, buildings and the first three months of operations, with an



MR FRIDAY Ken Rye

'Good grief, man! If I had any great ideas do you think I'd still be working here?'

centres will be equipped with computer facilities, and will be able to offer training, either in the centre or on-site. David O'Brien, UK sales and marketing manager for Burroughs, said that the company must now identify with the country's small business managers, and organise the resources to provide the solutions. With an £11 million training centre at Milton Keynes available for residential training courses, the company is hoping that its multi-million pound investment will be attractive to small companies.

A seminar designed to help small companies in search of finance will be held on Monday, April 16, by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It will cover the types of finance available from both public and private sources, including the various sources of venture capital. Seminar cost for non-members of the LCCI: £35.

Contact: London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4A 3AB; telephone (01) 248 4444.

BRIEFING

Government policy on management education for smaller businesses lacks direction and academia has done little to meet the need for a greatly expanded programme of training for smaller enterprises, argues a report commissioned by the United Kingdom Organisation Committee for the European Year of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

It calls for a new management training division within the Department of Trade and Industry.

Contact: copies from Bill Poeton, 21 South Terrace, London SW7; telephone (01) 589 1945.

Membership of the British Venture Capital Association (BVCA), after its first year of operation, has grown from 33 to 43 and management programmes it now covers the bulk of British venture capital activity, representing more than £500m of equity funding committed or available for small growing businesses in Britain. The new chairman of the BVCA is Tony Lorenz.

Contact: BVCA, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS; telephone: (01) 838 5722.

Each of the computer business

A sporting idea gets airborne

By Patricia Tisdall

Graham Deegan, a 29-year-old sailmaker and Rory Carter, a 33-year-old naval architect have turned a leisure-time interest in hang gliding into a thriving business. Inside four years their company, Airwave Gliders, has become internationally recognised as one of the leading manufacturers in this fast-growing sport. Exports are sent from their base at Cowes in the Isle of Wight to clubs, schools and groups of enthusiasts all over the world.

Deegan and Carter started out by identifying the most popular glider then on the market and travelling to New York to negotiate a licence to manufacture it in Europe. The next step was to arrange finance, which they obtained through a bank loan using personal assets as a guarantee. Premises were found in a nursery factory estate owned by the IOW County Council.

One of the advantages of acquiring a manufacturing licence for an existing product was that it also brought an introduction to a network of dealers and agents prepared to distribute the new company's products. This network has since been developed and



Graham Deegan (left) and his partner Rory Carter

expanded: there are 15 to 20 agents in the UK alone. As well as travelling about Europe talking to dealers, the two founders also spend most of their weekends demonstrating their gliders and talking to enthusiasts at rallies and competitions.

'There is really no substitute for going out and talking to people', says Graham Deegan. Deegan and Carter do not have much time these days to take part seriously in competitions, but two of their 25 staff are enthusiasts. This is helpful in terms of promoting the products but Deegan points out that

it is a method which should be regarded with some caution. 'The trouble is that enthusiasts are very rarely in the factory - their main interest is in flying and they tend to be always away at tests or competitions'.

In developing methods of handling cash flow and finance, the partners also learned as they went along. In the early days, Airwave Gliders had one bad debt of about £10,000 from a French customer who asked for credit on the grounds that owing to French currency restrictions he was having difficulty in getting funds out of France. Then he went bankrupt. A cardinal rule now is to ask for cash before shipment.

After a fairly shaky start during the first 12 months, the company, now turning over about £100,000 a year, moved fairly rapidly into profit. All of this is being ploughed back to finance expansion. The initial nursery estate premises were outgrown within 12 months and the company moved to a commercial lease of a 5,000 sq ft factory which produces about 20 gliders a week but is also becoming too small.

Space is a real problem. The glider sails which have to be stretched flat during production

each occupies a sizeable area and Airwave has 100 units or more under construction at any one time. In addition, since the tension of even the best quality sail cloth reacts to temperature and humidity the factory area not only has to be enclosed but also has to be heat-regulated. 'We are at present trying to organize another building', says Deegan.

As soon as it had glider manufacturing under the American company's licence in progress, Airwave started developing its own designs, under the 'Magic' name. Magic gliders Mark I went on the market at the end of 1982. Magic Mark II proved successful last year and Mark III has just gone into production. Almost half the production of these is being sold in America.

Airwave Gliders has benefited from operating in a community where there are other young, small organizations. A transport operator which distributes all the gliders on the mainland as well as bringing in raw materials has grown up alongside Airwave. An engineering firm which produces specially designed components for the fittings has also gained.

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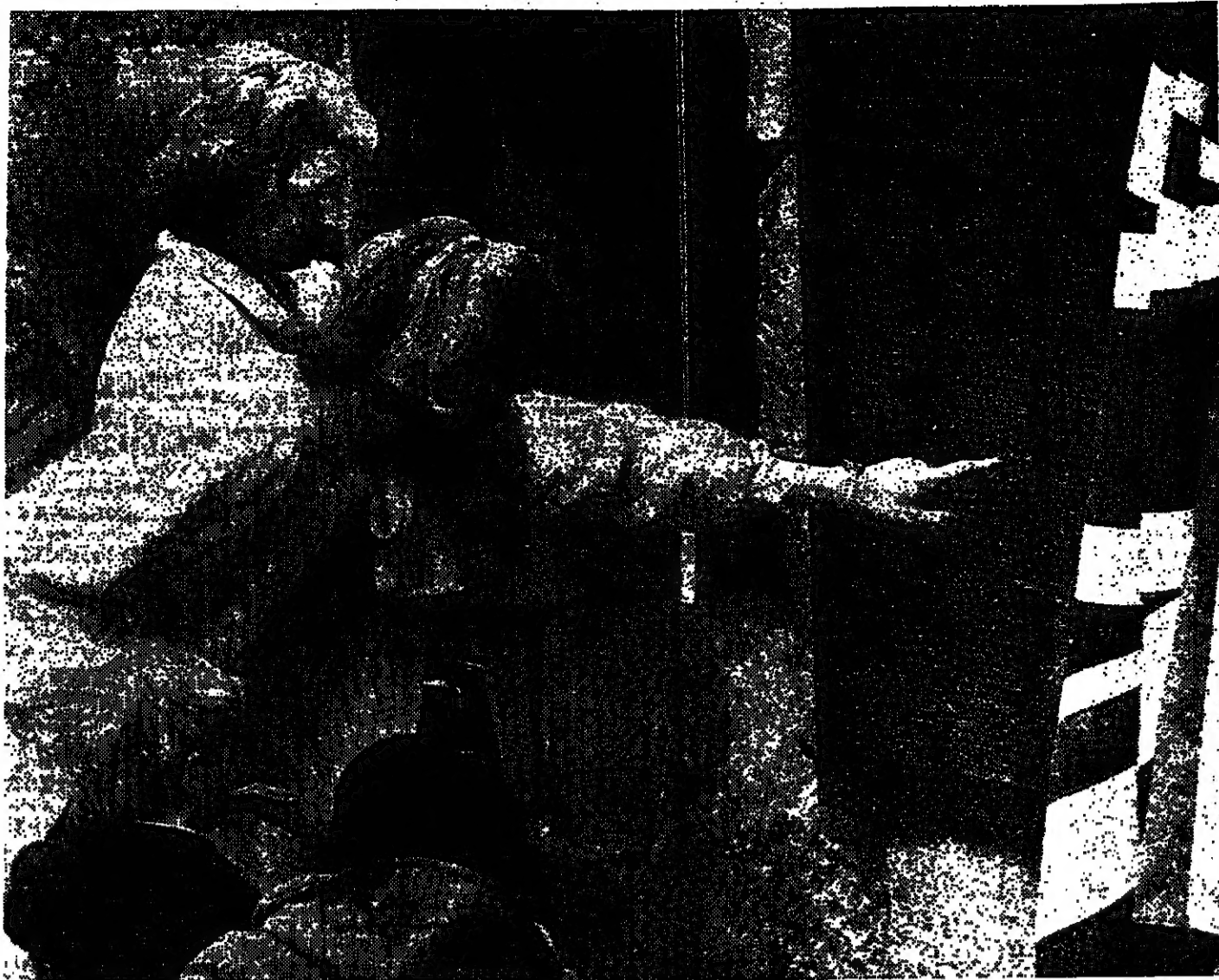
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